

# THE LANCET

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No. 1465.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1855.

PRICE  
FOURPENCE  
Stamped Edition, 5d.

**EVENING COURSE on ANATOMY and SURGERY.** King's College, London, by JOHN WOOD, Esq. F.R.S., Anatomist in Anatomy. This class is intended to apply the plan of direct teaching, by Demonstration and Examination, to the above subjects. For full particulars apply to J. W. CURRIERMAN, Esq., King's College, London.  
R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.**  
DONNELLAN LECTURE.  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board will, on SATURDAY, the 1st day of December next, proceed to the ELECTION of the DONNELLAN LECTURER for 1856.  
Applications from Candidates, with a statement of their Claims, should be sent to the Registrar on or before the 28th inst.  
Each Candidate is required to send in with his application a statement of the subject on which he proposes to lecture.  
None but Fellows, or Fellows, Bachelors, Doctors, or Doctors of Divinity of this University, are entitled to be Candidates.  
By order of the Board,  
Nov. 5, 1855. H. LLOYD, Registrar.

**LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**  
Patron—The Most Hon. the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G.  
The FIRST GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held in CROSBY HALL, Bishopgate-street, on FRIDAY, December 14. The Chair will be taken at 2 o'clock, by the Right Hon. the LORD LONDONDERRY, K.G. F.R.S. F.S.A.  
The attendance at this Meeting of all Members and friends of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society is earnestly requested.  
By order of the Provisional Committee,  
GEO. BISH WEBB, Hon. Sec. (pro tem.)  
6, Southampton-street, Covent-garden,  
November 30, 1855.

**ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION.**—All works for EXHIBITION must be DELIVERED at the GALLERY on the 3rd or 4th of DECEMBER.  
At 8 o'clock, on the TUESDAY EVENINGS, beginning with the 1st January, LECTURES will be delivered at the Galleries, and the Committee are able to announce the following:  
Jan. 6.—Jas. F. H.A.S. Honorary Secretary to the Architectural Exhibition.—On the Ancient Architecture of Assyria.  
15.—George Schaff, Jun., Esq.—On Early Christian Art as illustrated in Mosaic Paintings.  
22.—The Rev. J. L. Petit.  
29.—Robert W. Bulling, Esq.—On the Ancient Architecture of Scotland.  
Feb. 13.—Thomas Allan, Esq.—On the Influence of Light and Shadow upon Architectural Composition.  
19.—Will be set apart for publishing the awards of the Jury appointed by the Royal Institute of British Architects, and for some remarks upon the articles exhibited in the department for materials.  
Season Ticket-holders will be free to the Lectures as well as to the Exhibition, and also Subscribers, who will have in addition the privilege of purchasing the Catalogues. New Subscribers should send in their names in good time, in order that they may be printed in the first edition of the Catalogues.  
All information will be instantly given on application to  
JAS. FERGUSON, F.R.S.A.  
30, Langham-place,  
JAS. EDMONDSON, Jun.,  
8, Crown-st. Old Broad-st.  
Hon. Sec.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS of ENGLAND.**—The Second Volume of the CATALOGUE of the HISTORICAL SERIES of PREPARATIONS in the MUSEUM of the COLLEGE, begun in 1845, is now published. The price to Members of the College is One Guinea, and to other persons One Guinea and a Half.  
November 19, 1855. EDMUND BELFOUR, Sec.

**ARMY AND NAVY PENSIONERS' EMPLOYMENT SOCIETY.** 22, Parliament-street.  
Patron—PRINCE ALBERT.  
The Society continues to receive and employ of every description, and the Public are invited to consult its Registry of several hundred Pensioners returned wounded or invalided from the Seat of War, with full particulars of their past life and their capability for industrial occupation. The justice and gratitude of their Country are appealed to for this humble recognition. The Books are open to all, and also lists of the men already provided for, and a statement of the provision made.  
Subscriptions in support of the Society (periodically advertised) are received by its Bankers, Messrs. Coutts & Co., and Messrs. Masterman & Co., and at its Offices, 22, Parliament-street.  
Masterman & Co., and at its Offices, 22, Parliament-street.  
W. JERDAN, Hon. Sec.

**THE LIFE ACADEMY for ARTISTS and AMATEURS.** IS NOW OPEN Three Evenings a Week, at Mr. F. S. CARR'S SCHOOL of ART, 21, Bloomsbury-street, Bedford-square.—Terms, Three Guineas a Year.

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**AMATEUR MUSICAL SOCIETY.**—The Members are hereby informed, that the FIRST CONCERT of the Society will take place at the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS on MONDAY, the 1st day of December, at Half-past Eight o'clock precisely. The REPERTOIRE will be held on FRIDAY, November 24, at Seven for Half-past precisely.—The Tickets are now ready for delivery at Robert W. Oliver's Musical Repository, 5, Old Bond-street.  
HENRY LESLIE, Hon. Sec.

**MEXICAN and SOUTH AMERICAN COM-PANY.**—A HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the Shareholders in this Company will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopgate-street, on WEDNESDAY, the 12th of December, at 2 o'clock precisely.  
HYDE CLARKE, Secretary.  
17, Gracechurch-street, Nov. 20, 1855.

## MANCHESTER MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—EXHIBITION, 1856.

The Directors of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution propose to inaugurate the New Building with an Exhibition illustrative of the Fine Arts, Antiquities, Scientific Inventions, Raw Materials, Industrial Products, Machinery at Rest and in Motion, and comprising Selections from Mechanical Employments in actual operation.  
The Floor space in the Building applicable to the purposes of the Exhibition exceeds 25,000 square feet, with the additional accommodation afforded by the walls for the display of Paintings, Engravings, &c. With this space at their disposal, and with the experience the Directors possess of the successful working of similar Exhibitions in this Institution, they confidently hope to collect the materials and arrange an Exhibition which will sustain the reputation of the Institution, and be not only an object of general attraction, but an important educational instrument throughout the densely populated district of which Manchester is the centre.  
To aid them in this undertaking, the Directors earnestly solicit the loan of objects suitable for exhibition, and also the valuable assistance which may be rendered by suggestions and friendly co-operation.  
The carriage to and from Manchester of articles selected for exhibition will be paid by the Directors; an insurance will be effected on the building and its contents; and care will be taken to return undamaged the property of contributors.  
The New Building is now rapidly approaching completion, and it is proposed to open the Exhibition in the Autumn of 1856. Those gentlemen who are willing to assist the Board by the loan of objects, &c., &c., are respectfully requested to communicate as early as possible with the President of the Institution, Oliver Heywood, Esq., or with the Secretary.

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By order of the Board,  
E. HUTCHINGS, Secretary.  
17, Cooper-street, Manchester,  
November, 1855.

**THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.**—The noble exertions of Miss Nightingale and her Associates in the Hospitals of the East, and the services rendered by them to the sick and wounded of the British forces, demand the grateful recognition of the British People. It is, therefore, announced, that, with the view to a public subscription, in order to tender tribute of admiration to the noble and heroic conduct of the same time, greatly to enlarge her sphere of usefulness, on her return to England.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held, at Willie's rooms, King-street, St. James, on THURSDAY, November 23, at 2 o'clock, at which HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has graciously consented to preside.  
The attendance of Ladies and Gentlemen is, therefore, requested at such Meeting, where a series of resolutions will be proposed and a public subscription entered into for the purpose.  
Meanwhile subscriptions will be received by any of the London, Provincial, Irish, or Scotch Bankers.  
The Right Hon. SIR JOHN HERBERT, M.P., Hon. Sec.  
S. G. HALL, Esq., Sec.  
A List of the Provisional Committee, and all requisite information, may be obtained at the Office of the Nightingale Fund, 5, Parliament-street, where cards of admission to the Meeting will be issued.

**THE GOVERNESSES' INSTITUTION, 34, Soho-square.**—Mrs. WAGHORN, who has resided many years abroad, respectfully invites the attention of the Nobility, Gentry, and Principals of Schools to her Register of English and Foreign GOVERNESSES, TEACHERS, COMPANIONS, TUTORS, and PROFESSORS. School Property transferred, and Pupils introduced in England, France, and Germany. No charge to Principals.

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**LADIES' INVALID HOME, BRIGHTON.**  
—A Temporary Home for Invalid Ladies is now opened in Brighton, where Board, Lodging, and Medical Attendance, with cheerful society, are supplied to the inmates at the weekly charge of 12s. 12s. or 10s. 6d., according to the sleeping-room occupied. Applications to be made to Mrs. C. SEALE, 10, Silwood-place, Brighton. Subscriptions and Donations received at the Union Bank, Brighton; or at Messrs. Stevenson, Salt & Sons, Lombard-street, London.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for PROMOTING the EDUCATION of the DEAF and DUMB** OF IRELAND, Clarendon, Glasnevin, Co. Dublin.—The Committee will, on the 17th of December next, proceed to the ELECTION of a HEAD MASTER for the above Institution. Salary, £200 per annum, payable monthly, with Residence, Coal, and Candles. Applicants must be members of the United Church of England and Ireland. Further information may be obtained from Samuel Hill, Esq., Assistant Secretary, with whom applications, with testimonials as to qualification and character, are to be lodged at the office of the Association, 16, Upper Sackville-street, Dublin, on or before the 10th day of December next.  
Committee Rooms, Oct. 29, 1855.

**MINERALOGY and GEOLOGY.**—Elementary Collections, which will greatly facilitate the study of these interesting branches of Science, can be had at 2s. 10s. 6d., to 100 Guineas each, of J. TENNANT, Mineralogist to Her Majesty, 149, Strand, London. Mr. TENNANT gives Private Instruction in Mineralogy and Geology.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1855.

## REVIEWS

*Falconry in the British Isles.* By Francis Henry Salvin and William Brodrick. Van Voorst.

FALCONRY in the British Isles! Here is a book suggestive of knights and ladies—of the lightest of the light olden times—those romantic old times when it was so pleasant to be a sparkling princess or a handsome cavalier—of picturesque sports and gorgeous trains and splendid chivalry. It sends us back three centuries in thought. The eyes of fancy look out on to the moorland; and we see how the rose ribbons blow up against Lady Mabel's cheek as she leads the hawkers to the river-side—how the hawk whistles upon her little fist as it sways about, adapting itself to the modulations of the palfrey—how the hawks on the falconer's yoke bear their crimson tassels proudly, or shake their bells as they flutter their wings, impatient for the flight—how the yeomen praise their birds—and how the gentlemen, stately in their ruffs or lordly in their cloaks and swords, leap to their saddles, intoxicated with the sunshine and the moorland air.

It must have been a cheerful sight this hawking:—falconers shouting, boys singing, ladies prattling, horses neighing, hawks whistling. Pleasantly down the wind must have come the tinkle of their bells, as the unconscious heron was heard booming in the marsh down by the river. Then what a scamper and scud of horses when the bird rises, all grey and white, the long black plumes at the back of his neck, the great trophies of the falconers streaming in the wind, his long legs stretched out behind! Then, "So ho, Rupert!" and "So ho, Viper!" and the two hawks fly off like arrows after the quarry, the red tassels of the hoods still hanging in the trooper's hands. Cheering cries of "Hey, gar, gar!—wo ho!" rouse the bird to soar up like an arrow, to get to wind of the frightened quarry, and to strike down like a thunderbolt upon it from the clouds. If there are two friends' birds up, there is a clamour of voices, swearing, praying, and offering wagers, crying as if in pain or starting for joy at every success or reverse. Then, with its dreadful rider preying upon its back, like the lion on the giraffe or the leopard on the gazelle, down comes the wounded bird, a heap of bloody feathers, at the feet of the horseman. Not unfrequently the fever of the chase leads to quarrels, and the ready swords of quarrelsome retainers flash out to defend the claim of their master's favourite bird. Ladies scream and fly away like frightened fowls, falconers fling down their hawks and beat their drums, pages run to drag their masters out of the scuffle; and feuds of rival houses rise from the mere circumstance of Robert, the white falcon, having been speared by the heron at the Blackwater brook; marriages are broken off and blood is shed to revenge the fortunes of a carrion bird.

Those were times when men gave 200 gold pieces for a single jerrfalcon from Norway, and when a cast of merlins was a present to a king. Hawking was a picturesque sport, less dangerous than fox-hunting, more select, equally exciting, though not as laborious or as varied. It stood high as an amusement because it could be shared by ladies; it was bright in colour; it was social, and not scattered; it was enjoyed by prince and peasant; it was cheap, and could be tried in any weather; it brought men together; it seldom ended in death of horse or rider; it made men hardier, good leapers, runners, and vaulters; it practised the eyesight and quickened the perception; it required per-

severance, skill and patience, decision, strength, agility, keenness, and diligence. The falconer had to tear through thickets, leap brooks with his hunting-pole, ford rivers, and climb hills. A sport that required such requisites was no bad training for heroes like Raleigh, Drake, and Sydney.

'Falconry in the British Isles' is essentially an aristocratic book:—printed on large paper and illuminated by handsome plates, and is intended, we presume, for gentlemen of large property who throw away thousands to win a race-cup worth a few score pounds.

Not that we mean to ridicule the book, which is well illustrated and well got-up, treats a curious subject in a novel and sensible way, and is founded on ocular experience. We do not care much for knowing that the early Oriental nations practised hawking; but we are interested in knowing that falconry was a fashionable amusement in England from the reign of Ethelbert (860 A.D.) to the middle of the seventeenth century. Checked—like other amusements, good and bad—by the Commonwealth, it died out about the beginning of George the Second's reign,—when fox-hunting, comparatively unknown in the reign of the Stuarts, began to grow into a passion. There can be no question that the increase of inclosures was the chief cause of the decline in hawking. Modern attempts have been made to revive the ancient sport; but it still exists a mere antiquarian play—is stared at and written about, but not now practised with much life or enjoyment.

The modern history of hawking is curious and little known. Nearly all the falconers of the eighteenth century came from the little Dutch village of Valkenswaard, near Bois le Due,—whose inhabitants, probably from some local advantages, are still famous in their old pursuit. At the close of the century, Lord Orford (Horace Walpole's uncle) and Col. Thornton attempted to revive hawking in England, introducing the Dutch school of practice,—the Scotch, at the same period, having still their indigenous system. Many of the Valkenswaard men—Koppen, Weymans, and Dankers—came at this time to England. These Dutchmen did not train hawks from the nest as we did, Holland not being a breeding-place for hawks, but tamed those they caught in their autumn passage over the flats.

Neither in Scotland nor in England has the sport ever quite died out. The Flemings of Barochan Tower in Renfrewshire are still falconers:—their ancestor, Peter Fleming, was a falconer when he won from James the Fourth a hawk's hood set with jewels, for beating the King's falcon with his tiercel. In England, Col. Thornton hawked over the Yorkshire wolds in 1805, before they were broken up for corn crops. Till 1819 there were subscription hawks kept in Scotland; and in 1836 the Duke of St. Albans' hawks were frequently flown at Brighton. In 1845, Sir John Maxwell dying, his private falconer exhibited his hawks at several English race-grounds. In Norfolk and the south-west of Scotland, where the chalk runs near the surface, hawking is still practised. Only forty years since a new system of cultivation in Dorset drove away the landrails, which used to be taken with the sparrow-hawk. Where chalk abounds, hedges are weak and timber is scarce; and those great downs and open tracts appear which are so favourable to hawking. On the Continent, hawking is only known to be practised in two places:—at the Loo in Holland, where there is a hawking-club; and in Wallachia, by a tribe of gipsies, who, being compelled to pay tribute of quails to the Porte, train hawks as their tax-collectors.

A description of the flight at the heron will convey a good impression of an average day's hawking.—

"A heron put up out of a pond or brook will not afford anything like a proper flight; for if not taken at once by the Hawks, it lights either upon a neighbouring tree, or even on the water. Probably our forefathers took in this way all the herons they used for the table, either with Eyess Falcons or with female Goshawks. The Dutch falconers introduced the vastly superior mode of flying this quarry by placing themselves *down wind* of the heronry, and waiting for the return of the old birds. Those which are seen going out to fish, are styled 'light herons,' and are not, generally, interfered with. When, however, a bird is noticed returning homewards with a full crop, the warning cry of 'Au vol' is raised, and if it passes sufficiently near to the Falconer, he throws off a cast of Falcons down wind of it, and the sport commences. Immediately the heron perceives itself to be pursued, it commences to rise in the air, or, in Falconer's language, to 'ring,' and at the same time lightens itself of the contents of its 'creel,' so that trout, eels, and frogs, may be occasionally seen entirely out of their natural element descending from the skies: the Hawks also have to get to their pitch by a spiral course, so that the three birds may sometimes appear to be flying in different directions. The heron having considerably the start of his pursuers, is enabled to gain a lofty pitch before they can overtake it: it is this that adds so much to the interest of the scene, it being an acknowledged rule amongst Falconers, that the higher the birds rise, the finer may the flight be considered. As soon as the first Hawk has got above the heron, it makes a stoop, which is evaded by a shift; this gives the second Hawk time to take up a similar position, and in turn to make a like attempt. These stoops are repeated frequently, the birds continuing to rise, and, generally, going down wind, obliging the company to ride briskly in order to keep them within sight, often to the distance of two or three miles. At length one of the Hawks succeeds in 'binding,' that is, seizing the heron, its example being immediately followed by the other, when the three birds descend slowly to the ground. Instinct teaches old Falcons to unbind just before they reach the ground, in order to avoid the shock, which the young Hawks that retain their hold are liable to suffer from. Advantage should be taken by the Falconer of this unbinding to lure off the Hawk by means of a live pigeon in a creance, and to secure it, as there is great danger in attacking the heron upon the ground: it is under these circumstances, and not, as has often been supposed, whilst in the air, that he makes deadly use of his formidable bill. The Falconer, upon dismounting to secure the heron and his Hawks, pulls out a leathern thong with a leaden weight attached to it; from a bag at the side of the saddle, which prevents his horse from straying, and as soon as the Hawks have fastened upon the pigeon-lures, he seizes the heron by the neck, and placing the bird's head between his knees, examines carefully any injuries it may have received during the encounter; if not severely hurt (which is seldom the case), or required for the training of younger Hawks, it is restored to liberty, a thin copper plate, with his name and the date of the year engraved upon it, having been previously fastened round the leg of the captive."

The implements for hawking are simple. They consist of the plumed hood, which is put on the hawk to prevent his seeing his prey too soon, and which is shifted as soon as he is dismissed from the fist; the cast, which fastens by jesses or leather straps to his legs, and which also slips with a swivel like a greyhound's leash; bells, which are fastened to the bird's tail or leg in order to discover him by their noise if he escape to a neighbouring tree; and, besides all these, a lure or decoy perch covered with leather, to which meat is attached, and which is swung round the falconer's head to attract the bird when it is hovering overhead. In old times the falconer wore his pouch, tasselled and feathered, sometimes of velvet, and worked with Scripture texts, in which he carried his hawk's

food, and his searing-irons, scissors, and medicines, in case his bird was wounded or mutilated by the beak of the brave heron. He wore thick leather gauntlets to prevent the bird hurting his hand, and carried tins for meat slung on his arm. If on foot, he carried, slung to his neck, a circular yoke on which his birds perched; and if on horseback, a drum at his saddle to frighten up the wild ducks before the hawk was flown. About these fittings there were all sorts of refinements, as there were indeed about every department of so old a science. The bells were matched to tune and bore the arms and name of the bird's owner. Fretful birds that pecked at the falconer's fingers were made to snap at sticks of aloes till they were cured of their bad habits. Shy birds were encouraged by being fed on pigeons' flesh dipped in sugar and water.

The whole system of training a hawk was most laborious. The falconer had to sit up night after night to tame the bird by keeping it sleepless. Its food was carefully studied, and it was daily bathed. It was then taught to fly at stuffed hares drawn along the ground with a string, and rewarded every time it did well with a feed of its most favourite food. Great care was taken to prevent its being cowed or daunted at its first flight, and it was generally fleshed on wounded herons or birds that had their wings broken.

The writers who defend hawks and lament their death deny their crimes. They maintain that they do not kill the grouse, but only crows, that feed on the eggs of game. They say also that it is dangerous, in our short-sighted haste, to destroy the local balance of nature. Where the golden eagle is killed, the Alpine hare increases, to the great annoyance of sportsmen. Where the weasel is killed off, rats spring up in incredible numbers. Evils are compensating:—the bird that eats the buds destroys also insects and insects' eggs; the crow that roots up the wheat only kills the dying blade the root of which the beetle he searches for is feeding on.

*Pictures of Cuba.* By William H. Hurlbut. Longman & Co.

THE American, unable to visit Europe, may have a glimpse of the Old World in Cuba. To the traveller in search of contrasts Havannah is as far from New York as any city of Castile. Whatever is not Spanish in the town is Italian. The villas on the hills have the façades and balustrades of Italy,—the convents have the high-peaked roofs of Spain,—in the hotels are frescoed saloons, such as are found in the palaces of the Moors. The Spanish aspect of these buildings is increased by the pillars and low arches that run round the interior quadrangle, the coloured roofs and floors, the royal ornaments on the furniture, the clusters of rich plants and flowers. In the streets, the West and the South are blended—quaintness, formality, gravity—with the languid and luxurious manners of a tropical colony.

Mr. Hurlbut's Cuban pictures, though effectively drawn, are sometimes over-coloured. His style, when it is not stiff with pedantry, often relaxes into extravagance. He balances the stately passages, which are weighted with allusions to Tacitus and Cicero, and other great names in ancient and modern literature, against timid elaborations about an Anglo-American, "racked in body upon the swiftly-revolving wheels of a climatic torture,"—about "the shudder of life at the touch of death,"—and about being propelled over the sea "with the double help of Dædalus and Watt." But he has some picturesque descriptions of Cuban cities, and

scenery, and manners. Here is a first glance at Havannah:—

"On the left hand rise fortifications massive as those of Malta or Gibraltar, wrought into the dark grey rocks of the Morro, sweeping along the many-hued hill-sides of the Cabañas, glittering throughout their lengthening lines with the white uniforms and shining bayonets of the sentinels who guard the proud flag of Spain, that gorgeous banner of blood and of gold.—On the right, stretch irregular masses of parti-coloured buildings, blue, pink, white, green, yellow, overtopped at intervals by some massive church tower or graceful tufted palm-tree. Queer-looking boats, emancipated gondolas, shameless sisters of the veiled Venetian nuns, and brilliant as butterflies, dart in and out along the crowded quays."

A street-scene:—

"Ever and anon, a punchy black mule with stiff, erect, close-shaven mane, and braided tail tied with gay ribbons to the saddle, comes prancing by in the shafts of a gorgeous volante, or a grey donkey shambling along, and on his back a Creole boy, with smiling kindly face, and great black eyes, and warm bright complexion, half sitting, half lying between two great straw panniers full of oranges, or zapotes, or pine-apples, or plantains. The whole spirit of the place is that of a drowsier Spanish Italy. For the lazzaroni, we have the negroes, many of them magnificent Africans, the finest specimens of the race I ever saw. Their ways are infinitely queer. For instance, they use their ears for pockets. You see a huge, tattooed, bronze Hercules take out a lucifer match from behind one ear, and a long cigar from behind the other, while small silver change gleams in the orifices of both."

Without caring for Mr. Hurlbut's "woeing" and "entrancing" memories of the Cuban Creoles, we hurry over the Tarantella, "maddening on the moonlit sands of Sorrento," the music "pouring the plaintive passion of its wailing cadences through every nerve and vein of the pale, dark-eyed" girls, for this may "all be felt," but, as Mr. Hurlbut sagaciously observes, "cannot be fathomed." We will therefore pass on, and pause before a group in the hotel at La Columa:

"I was particularly attracted by one old lady of sixty, with a parchment face, which reminded me of Heine's dame in the Harz mountains, whose countenance resembled a palimpsest whereon a monkish homily had been written over a Greek love story. Her dress still wore a hue of youthful folly. She was arrayed in scarlet and white muslin, orange-coloured stockings, a blue silk shawl gorgeously embroidered with large dahlias and roses in green and yellow silk; a bunch of artificial flowers adorned her hair, and huge gold ear-rings glittered in her ears. Thus wonderful in her appearance, she glided gracefully into the storehouse, purchased a long Jenny Lind cigar, asked the favour of a light from a Montero gentleman in a striped blue shirt, with a sword at his side and silver spurs on his stockinged feet; and then returning to the 'saloon,' while the soft smoke curled about her head, took up a broom and proceeded to sweep away the remnants of the morning's meal."

These Cuban settlements have an appearance as antique and faded as that of the now-forgotten towns of Old Spain. Not a tinge of the New World is upon them.—

"The Campos Santos, or burial-grounds, are vile places, where corpses are thrown aside as they are in Italy, without respect and without memorials even so lasting as the widow's tears or the tolling of the funeral bell. Before burial, the dead, dressed in the gayest manner, are exposed on catafalques set around with candles, in the great saloon of their homes. Ghastly faces stare suddenly out on you from within the iron-barred windows as you walk the city streets. Unconfined and unshrouded, for the most part, the dead are flung into shallow graves, whence they will soon be jostled by their successors in the endless procession. Dark stories are told of those who have charge of these interments. A certain countess, who died near by us in Havana, was laid out in state and superbly arrayed. When the day of the funeral came, one of the friends with a knife cut into shreds the fine silks and satins of her robes to make them

valueless as *merchandise*. Among the conservative old Spanish a great deal of formality obtains in the matter of mourning. It is considered proper for the family to shroud everything in the house of death. Pictures are turned to the wall, furniture gloomily draped. Immediately after the funeral, all the relations and connexions of the deceased meet at the house, where they dine together, the family keeping out of the way in private rooms till after dinner, when they appear, and two great circles are formed in the saloon, the females gathering into one and the males into another. Lugubrious conversation then commences. This ceremony is repeated daily during nine days!"

There is nothing Transatlantic in this. It is a rusty fragment of Spain that has drifted out of Europe.

"In all the island in 1840, out of more than ninety thousand free children, only nine thousand attended any school, and of these only one-third were educated at the public expense,—that is to say, had their ears pulled and were beaten by certain incompetent friars. The much-abused Turks are not more illiterate than the rural Cubans. Newspapers only reach the interior in the form of wrappers. Dr. Wurdeman tells us of one yeoman, well-to-do in the world, who had bought a school geography from a pedlar for twenty-five dollars, kept it ostentatiously in sight, and professed to have learned therein that the English and Americans were the most notorious stabbers in the world!"

It will be remembered that the writer is an American, with little civility to spare for Spain; but he is not an Annexationist, and may therefore be supposed to describe without excessive prejudice. His Anti-slavery and Protestant feelings must, however, be taken into the account. On the political state of the island his remarks are interesting.—

"While I was at Havana, the *garrotte* was several times erected at the Punta, and twice for the punishment of political offenders. The newspapers made no allusion to any of these events. In one instance, I happened to be dining on board a man-of-war, where an officer in the company gave us the history of one of the political prisoners (both of whom, by the way, were reprieved at the place of execution, and sent to the galleys at Ceuta), telling us that his name was Garcia, and that he was a miserable old creature, at whose house two of the Lopez party, badly wounded, had been left. He treated them very well, but they died. Shortly afterwards the news of Las Pozas reached him, and our Cuban Falstaff instantly produced his dead pirates, alleging that he had slain them 'for Queen and Country.' He was rewarded with a decoration; but the truth coming to light after a while, Señor Garcia was compromised."

We fancy that we have met with Mr. Hurlbut before, and that we have read his 'Narrative of a Visit to Europe,' with all the faults, and not all the merits, of this little volume on Cuba.

*Wine Duties considered Financially and Socially. Being a Reply to Sir James Emerson Tennent, on 'Wine: its Taxation and Uses.'* By W. Bosville James. Longman & Co.

THE author of this work, while engaged in proving that the present system of wine duties is hurtful to the trade and to the consumer, after cutting off profit from the one and health from the other, is not so unreasonable as to ask, or expect, a reduction in the duties on wine or any other article. He confines himself to showing that the reduction should and may be made when the golden opportunity of peace arrives. Waiting for that period, he meanwhile gives a succinct history of the gradual increase and the variations in the duties on wines,—shows how the present system, impolitic, because anti-commercial, "supplies the best market of Portugal with factitious instead of natural productions,"—and touches upon the popular taste for wine, at one time for the natural, at another for the sophisticated,



beverage. The conclusion arrived at by the author is, that "when refinement has induced a general use of articles formerly denominated luxuries, they should no longer be restricted by onerous, and almost prohibitory, imposts. The correct course would be, by judicious and moderate duties, to encourage their freer use, and obtain a larger revenue from the consumption of the many than from the exclusive indulgence of the few." The author subsequently adds the very logical assertion, that a system of high duties (which, by the way, favours the introduction of alcoholic wines, and keeps from us what is light and salubrious, flasks that really cheer and do not inebriate) cannot prevail, "except in open defiance of the vital principle of free trade." As for Sir Emerson Tennent's doubts, whether Portugal-wine-drinking Britons will readily abandon their old beverage for the light wines of other countries, Mr. James states, and shows, that these doubts have only an imaginary foundation. The fact is, that the strongly alcoholized wines were not the original favourites of English wine-drinkers. They were forced upon our fathers by the system which was born at once of war and injudicious policy, which made the Portuguese wines cheaper than the light wines of France. The same system, too, is, at least, partly the cause that a great portion of our port wine has never been at Oporto, and that much of what does come thence is adulterated for the English market.

Mr. James shows, by statistical tables, that the Secretary to the Board of Trade has erred very seriously in his conclusions,—that discriminating duties disappoint the revenue and disturb consumption,—and that both consumption and revenue benefit by low duties and few rates. If the steady increase of both was checked, Mr. James shows that it was caused by the interruption of war, and not by any varying tastes or habits of the people.—

"The high duties of 1784-86 appear to have controlled the consumption, and limited it to an average of about 4,000,000 gallons per annum. The reduced duties in 1787 had the effect of very largely increasing the consumption, and benefiting the revenue at the same time. Both these advantageous results appeared in the returns, until checked by the war in 1793. In 1795 the consumption amounted to 6,238,438 gallons. That year stands apart from every year preceding or following it until 1803, when the quantity reached to 8,226,464 gallons. That year was conspicuous for not being again approached until 1825, when the quantity consumed was 8,009,542 gallons. Such years form no criteria, and yield no data; they stand aloof and separate, the peculiar events of such years alone serving to explain the phenomena. But although Sir J. E. Tennent builds much upon the results of 1825, he entirely overlooks this very reasonable explanation, that, although 1795 was a year of high duties, the next year was one of higher duties still; it is, therefore, more than probable that the exigencies of the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave sufficient warning to the dealer to induce the evasion of the excessive duties apprehended as about to be imposed by anticipated payments at the existing rates. This reasoning is supported by the recorded fact, that high as the duties were in 1795, in 1796 they were much higher, and the consumption fell from 8,238,438 gallons in 1795 to 8,776,260 gallons in 1796, and to 3,569,261 gallons in 1797; making the average of these three years considerably below that of the years 1792, 1793, and 1794: the last two years suffered particularly under the effects of the war breaking out. Thus the extraordinary character of the 'curious phenomena' of that year is, in reality, nothing at all curious."

Glancing at the condition of things as regarded the wine question at the beginning of the present century, the author remarks:—

"In 1802 the Treaty of Amiens opened the channels for commerce again. We now find the following year, 1803, an exceptional year, like 1795; thus

exhibiting the sudden excitement of an apparent prosperity. The consumption of wine rose to 8,226,464 gallons, and the revenue to 2,423,929*l*. Still these results are too capricious to aid in the question either of high or low duties. In 1805, war again interrupted the regularity of commerce. Higher duties again interfered with the purses of the people. The consumption of wine fell to 4,622,701 gallons. By the sustaining power of high duties, the revenue suffered little, being 2,255,794*l*, or only 168,135*l*. under the receipt of 1803; but the consumption decreased 3,603,763 gallons. This year must thus be deemed exceptional. Excluding, therefore, these exceptional years, Sir J. E. Tennent's conclusions have little weight."

Mr. James gives Tables which show the proportion to each other in the consumption of wine, spirits, tea, coffee, cocoa, and milk during the last three years. We will not trouble our readers with these columns of figures, but rather confine ourselves to pointing out some facts which they establish. In round numbers, then, we consume annually twenty-six millions of gallons of British spirits. Of rum about three millions, brandy between one and two millions, Geneva less than a quarter of a million. Wine shows a trifle above seven millions of gallons, not a third of what is consumed of British spirits. Of coffee we consume thirty-seven millions of pounds; of tea upwards of sixty-one millions; of cocoa four millions and a half; and of malt, in 1853, nearly forty-two millions of bushels, while in the year ending January 5, 1855, the consumption fell to less than thirty-seven millions. The tables show an increased consumption in British spirits and rum; a decrease in brandy and Geneva. Wine shows an increased consumption; coffee, tea and cocoa—tea especially—show a considerable increase. The large decrease in the use of beer is thus accounted for by Mr. James:—

"The large decrease in the use of beer, shown within the last two years, cannot be attributed to the increase in the quantity of any of the other articles, even taken together. Beer has fallen off about 74,664,094 gallons. Now, by a liberal calculation, reducing coffee, tea and cocoa into liquid measure, reckoning 1 lb. weight to make a gallon liquid, the increase, including the use of rum and British spirit, does not exceed 17,430,414 gallons. There must, therefore, be another element at work against the use of beer, and it is to be feared a more tyrannical one than taste or fashion,—the inability to indulge in their habitual beverage, from the reduced means of the labouring classes, their wages having again become inadequate to meet the high price of the necessary food and clothing."

The following passages have reference at once to the wine question, to Sir J. Emerson Tennent's method of treating it, and to the way in which Mr. James treads close upon his argument.—

"Until 1667, French wines were not only largely used, but constituted the general consumption of the wine-drinkers of that time. The subsequent hostilities between France and England created a change in our relations with the former country, and caused the rejection of its delicate wines. Wine was sought elsewhere, under the prohibition of these wines, and Portugal provided a cheap red wine as a substitute. In the reign of Elizabeth, the extension of commerce had before introduced the wines of Spain, and the dry white wines of that country seem to have been held in the highest estimation. This was only a temporary preference. Subsequently to the Restoration, the wines of France regained their former ascendancy." The disingenuousness of Sir J. Emerson is apparent in this very quotation; he writes it:—"The fact being, as McCulloch has recorded in the same article, that the 'strong wines of Spain' had been held in the highest estimation so early as the reign of Elizabeth and James I." McCulloch's expression is, 'the dry white wines of Spain'; the word 'strong' is not in the whole sentence."

Mr. James believes that, under almost any

circumstances, we could find not only a large supply of pure wines, but also consumers for them. The consumers to be found under a more reasonable regulation of duties than at present exists, he reckons at very formidable numbers, and allots them a fair portion of wine. For these, and the results specified, we refer our readers to the curious Tables at the end of the volume. We must add, that the work is not composed exclusively of dry statistics, but contains information of interest to every reader.

#### MINOR MINSTRELS.

No labour in our time meets with less toleration than mere verse-making. Scarcely can the most perfect of such efforts secure the smallest recognition. Some "native woodnote wild" of the most uninstructed minstrel, though rude, artless, and scarcely articulate, if truly original, will win more regard than the most accurate verse, that conveys only the lesson of a tutored mind, mistaking imitation for inspiration. To be correct and dull will in these excited and enlightened days no longer suffice; the age of Victoria is so far in advance of that of Anne. We have, therefore, no hope that *Poetical Attempts*, by the Rev. Hugh Rogers (Bath, Binns & Goodwin), will gain readers. These metrical commonplaces are distinguished by good sense and religious feeling; but are certainly not entitled to the epithet "poetical."

Of a more ambitious order, and, to some extent, laudably Wordsworthian in spirit and in tone, *The Isles of Loch Awe, and other Poems of my Youth*, by Philip Gilbert Hamerton (Painter), appear to command more than ordinary attention from the nature of the subjects and the mode of treatment, and also from a certain air of importance with which the volume is invested. It is accompanied with "illustrations drawn from Nature by the Author, and engraved by Edmund Evans." Mr. Hamerton informs us, in a note, that his book embraces "at least a hundred available subjects," and he "hopes to illustrate this work thoroughly," in which case "the etchings will be issued separately from the verse, and in parts." In this we see an amiable egotism, and a confident enthusiasm, not altogether unjustified by the talent displayed both in the pictures and the poetry. Like his master, Mr. Hamerton has a passionate love for Nature, and describes her works with minuteness and elegance. He, moreover, parades his allegiance to an elder bard—Spenser—whom he avowedly imitates by introducing each canto of his principal poem with lyrical stanzas implying its argument. There are five islands on Loch Awe, and these, with their traditions, form the subject of seven sections or books,—the first being introductory, and devoted to a "picturesque legend accounting popularly for the origin of the lake"; and the last, contrasting "the theories of modern science with this legendary palæontology." The descriptions of Nature in all these different chapters are direct, and written on the spot, sometimes in the boat while sailing on the lake. Their defects are what would naturally follow from this habit; they are too literal, too closely copied, and frequently lose the picturesque in the exact. Little of the ideal indeed is there in these poems; but a kind of utilitarian philosophy runs through them, explaining traditions into moralities, and lending an application to the various fables more in the style of Æsop than of Plato. The diction is only slightly elevated above prose; but there is a musical flow and ease in the verse not unattractive. Let a short citation serve for example, in which the writer has adroitly taken advantage of the cir-

cumstances of the present time to heighten and relieve his picture:—

Now, as I write, it is a time of war;  
And wives of soldier-peasants, soldier-peers,  
Grow pale and weary with anxiety.  
Some sitting in and luxury alone  
With feet half buried in the velvet pile  
Of noiseless carpets; and a newspaper,  
Or the last letter from the one beloved,  
Laid on the sofa—every syllable  
Already grown familiar as the words  
Of hollow social use.

The nights are long,  
And very cold—the butler stirs the fire.  
She draws her silken scarf about her neck,  
And shudders—shivers—though the room is warm;  
For on the heights before Sebastopol  
Two armies lie like cattle on the ground,  
Freezing beside low watchfires in the night.  
She will not have a guest to watch her grief.  
She sits alone and reads of battle-wounds,  
Until their frightful details seem to her  
Prophecy of his fate—and to a brain  
So wrought upon by one perpetual fear,  
The fear itself becomes reality.  
She sees him wounded—dying—dead as those  
Who lie in heaps together in the trench,  
A ready grave filled up with its own earth  
On the cold heights of Alma.

What to her  
Is all this wretched luxury, unshared  
With him she loves? The comforts of her home  
Seem to reproach her, and she scarcely eats  
A richer meal than the coarse ration doled  
To the poor tattered private. All alone  
She walks along her silent corridors,  
Stately in grief, and seeks her sleepless bed,  
There to lie brooding till the waxen lights  
Die in their silver sockets, and the fire  
Sheds an unsteady twilight on the wall.

Happy the soldier's wife who toils for bread,  
And ekes her living out on charity,  
Compared to her; for labour brings sweet sleep,  
And in itself supplies another care,  
And so relieves the mind: but on the rich  
More heavily fall afflictions of the heart.  
For grief becomes the business of their life,  
As pleasure was before. A common truth!  
The law of compensation working out  
The just decree of our equality.

Pause with this picture. Let it do its work.  
You see such sufferers in your daily life:  
Perhaps the fearful pain of their suspense  
Excites in you—it ought—true sympathy.  
If so, you are prepared to follow me  
Into the past. These sorrows are not new.  
Alas! all grief is ancient: the car—  
War, absence, fear, anxiety, suspense—  
Old as the story of the siege of Troy,  
Old as the legend of Penelope.

Such is the general tone of these poems;  
—neatly constructed narrative interwoven with  
reflection befitting rather the historian than  
the poet.

Of far less merit, but greatly more ambitious,  
is the next volume on our list, entitled *Olga; or,  
Russia in the Tenth Century: an Historical  
Poem.* (Hamilton & Co.)—This is an epic, in  
ten books, concerning the Empress Olga—her  
renunciation of paganism, and her death; pre-  
vious to which she has visions of the fortunes  
of the Russian Empire, which are connected with  
the invasion of the Danubian Provinces, some  
incoherent ravings and suspicious-looking aster-  
isks sufficing for suggestion of more recent and  
yet unfulfilled events. Much cannot be said in  
favour of all this. The following citation is a  
favourable example of the general style:—

The Pagans wondered at the festive joy,  
Talked much and often of this novel faith,  
The more attracted to inquire its claims  
Since one so wise as Olga deemed it true.  
Yet still they clung with heart's tenacious grasp  
To customary worship of their ancestors.  
The spacious fabric of idolatry  
Began not yet to totter at its base;  
Here loosened stone, there crumbling arch was seen,  
But firm as yet the hoary pile remained;  
While veneration for antiquity  
Formed powerful plea for peering up its walls!  
A beacon this for men of later times,  
Who well may ponder, 'mid their hate of change,  
That earth itself, and sky, and sun, and moon,  
And stars, were startling innovations once  
Upon the aspect of the universe:—  
That their own life was erst a novelty;—  
And whensoever truth and error strive  
In this our fallen world, the latter hath  
Advantage of priority to boast:  
For earth is wrapped in soul-enshrouing gloom,  
Which heavenly light, descending, needs must pierce  
And dissipate, without the slightest heed  
To rooted custom or tradition stale!

Turn we to gayer argument. Here is an

imitation of the famous 'Rejected Addresses,'  
under the title of *Crystals from Sydenham; or,  
what Modern Authors say of the Palace.* Edited  
by "Cygnus." (Hope & Co.)—The Editor  
feigns that these same "crystals" were found  
among the literary papers of the late Mr.  
Phillips, the compiler of the General Catalogue,  
to whom they had been sent by candidates for  
the composition of the "Inauguration Address"  
proposed by the Committee of Management of  
the Palace to be recited at the opening,—an  
intention subsequently abandoned. Though not  
quite up to the mark, these mock-poetics and  
rhetorics (for the collection includes prose as  
well as verse) are not without adroitness and  
merit. The psychological obscurity of Tenny-  
son, the heroic vein of Macaulay, the vapouring  
of Sibthorp, the classical metres of Arnold, the  
oddities of Carlyle, the "style inconsequential"  
of Sir F. B. Head, the egotistic fusion of  
Robert Montgomery, the class-sentimentalism  
of Lord John Manners, the sardonic irony of  
Thackeray, and the hexametrical evangelism  
of Longfellow, are one and all hit off with  
a certain degree of skill. We cannot under-  
take to give examples of all these. There is,  
however, considerable elegance in the verses  
attributed to Lord Manners. The neatest and  
most graceful are those in the manner of Long-  
fellow. There is besides a neat story involved  
in them, to which it is expedient to allude, in  
order to render any citation intelligible.

List to a Tale of Love in Sydenham Palace of Crystal.  
This tale is of a Mr. "Julius John Fitzbrown,  
of the city and cottage *Olympus*," and a certain  
Miss "Bandoline Harriet Ann Medora Lucretia  
Potts," who pay a visit to Sydenham; but  
Scarcely had they entered the Palace, when fate interposed  
to divide them;  
Suddenly Julius stopped, his face was pale, and a quiver  
Passed through his beautiful limbs. In haste fair Bandoline  
seized him,  
Loosened his delicate tie, and cut off a piece of his collar;  
Then more freely he breathed, but, gasping, in accents of  
horror,  
"Catalogues left at home!" he wildly rushed off to the  
transept.

Chained to the fatal spot, sweet Bandoline stood in her  
anguish,  
Chained to the spot where last her Julius lingered beside  
her.  
Weeping she waited long, but at last suppressed her  
emotion,  
Straightened her bonnet and shawl, and started in search  
of her lover.  
"Julius!" often she called with tremulous voice, but no  
answer  
Came from the transept broad, came none from Greece or  
Alhambra.  
Lonely she was in the wide, wide Palace, and gone was her  
lover;  
Empty and sad appeared each court, and haunted with  
phantoms,  
Empty and sad within was the sorrowing heart of the  
maiden.

Three long hours have passed while Bandoline roams  
through the Palace.  
Who has not seen since then that beautiful wandering  
figure?

Let me essay, O muse, to follow her devious journey,  
Tell of her weary steps as slowly she clammers the staircase.  
How in the Grecian Court she paused, and a tremor passed  
through her;  
How with a faltering voice she spake to the statue of Venus:  
"Goddess! I feel in my heart that near me my true lover  
wanders—  
Is it a foolish dream—an idle or vain superstition?  
Was it, indeed, a lock of his hair that I saw in the distance  
Flutter amid the throng, or only my credulous fancy?"  
Silent the statue was, but an old man answered her  
question:—

"Daughter, thy words are not vain, nor are they to me  
without meaning;  
Doubt not, thy lover is near. Just now, with countenance  
mournful,  
Hat fallen back on his head, and boots all dusty and way-  
worn,  
Crossed there a youth my path: just round the corner  
you'll find him."

Forth from the maiden's breast then burst the sorrowful  
murmur:

"Julius! art so near? and yet Bandoline can't overtake  
thee—"

Near! But, alas! the tones of this well-known voice cannot  
reach thee!"

"Patience!" a gardener said, who watered the neighbour-  
ing flowers.

"Patience! have courage! a seed grows not to its fruit in  
a moment."

Thus did the long, sad hours glide on, as both up and below  
stairs

Wandered in every nook the love-sick, anxious maiden;  
Now by refreshment-stalls, where clattered the plates and  
the glasses,  
Through Pompeii and Rome, and back to the Court  
Medieval.

Gracefully dressed she was and neat when began the day's  
pleasure,  
Heated and all dishevelled when in disappointment it ended.  
Not till the sun was low, when the shadows grew long and  
majestic.

Close to the door she espied her true love eating a biscuit.  
"Bandoline! angel!" he cried; but just at that moment,  
a large crumb  
Crossing his throat, he choked—in his arms fell Bandoline,  
fainting.

—This is at least executed with a completeness  
and facility indicative of cleverness, and may  
serve better to commend the *brochure* to the  
lovers of burlesque than any positive critical  
verdict, however favourable. The pieces are  
not of equal excellence.

*Cambridge Essays, contributed by Members of  
the University.* 1855. Parker.

THE 'Oxford Essays,'—which we described  
at the time of their appearance,—have been  
followed by the commencement of a perio-  
dical of the same kind conducted by members  
of the sister University. As before, the names  
of the writers are appended to the contri-  
butions, and each is responsible for none  
but his own statements. The public are cau-  
tioned in the Preface against inferring from the  
title of 'Cambridge Essays' that they are papers  
upon high mathematics or abstruse science, in-  
telligible only to wranglers; and are assured  
that no discussion will be admitted into these  
pages which is not within the reach of educated  
readers in general. It may not be amiss to  
guard against another misapprehension likely  
to be suggested by the title, and to observe, that,  
like its predecessor, this is no commonplace  
collection of youthful themes or prize essays,  
crude in conception, tame in expression, and  
interesting only to the immediate friends of the  
writers. The contributors to these pages are  
neither raw under-graduates, who divert their  
leisure hours by playing at authorship, nor  
narrow-souled college Fellows, who know little,  
and care less, about what is going on in the  
world beyond the precincts of their University.  
They are men of ripe scholarship, various read-  
ing, well-disciplined minds, and liberal spirit.  
Some of them, in addition to high university  
and college distinctions, have acquired a position  
in literature. There was little of the exclusively  
academical spirit in the 'Oxford Essays'; there  
is even less in the 'Cambridge Essays.' We  
have two essays bearing more or less directly  
upon the War:—one upon the present state  
and future prospects of the British Navy,  
in which the writer, an intelligent observer,  
adduces a number of facts indicative of a  
decline from our former naval supremacy,  
and makes some useful suggestions for the re-  
covery of our position; and another, on the  
principles which should regulate the treatment  
of enemies in war,—a short but excellent article,  
well deserving to be read, especially by those in  
command. The principles established and  
illustrated are these:—

"I. The main principle is, that a belligerent (so  
far of course as he had a right to enter into the war  
at all) has the right, by all means in his power, to  
lessen the force of his opponent; but except for that  
purpose he may not touch a hair of his head. II.  
Even this permission is so far restricted, that the  
more merciful method of lessening the opponent's  
force must invariably be selected. III. There must  
be some sort of balance between the advantage to be  
gained and the misery to be inflicted. IV. A may  
not injure B, in order to influence the conduct of C.  
V. It is not right to chastise a conquered nation for  
having provoked the war; though it is fair to make  
him pay for its cost."



The concluding Essay by Mr. Clark, the author of 'Gazpacho,' on General Education, contains a defence of classical studies, and of the course adopted by the University of Cambridge and the grammar and proprietary schools in reference to education. We are tempted to extract one short passage, which sets forth the process of classical study in a light deserving more consideration than it has usually received.—

"The classical student is unceasingly employed in collecting and classifying particular examples, and in applying general grammatical rules. In determining the sense of his author, he has to analyze the structure of each period, to select the most suitable out of many significations for each word, and then to regard the connexion of each clause with the sentence, and of each sentence with the context. He is perpetually arbitrating between conflicting probabilities. It would take many pages to write out at length the inductive syllogisms which have to be proposed and solved in determining the true meaning of a difficult sentence in Thucydides or Tacitus. The facility and rapidity with which an accomplished student does this, ought really to enhance in our eyes the value of his previous training, not lead us to depreciate it, or underrate the difficulties which he is thus enabled to master. Intuitive perception of truth is not a lucky guess, but a masterly condensation of long observation and painful reasoning."

The whole article, though upon rather an unattractive subject, is rendered pleasant reading by the writer's happy mode of treatment. An excellent account of Molière's *Life and Works* is given in the first Essay; but what strikes us as the gem of the whole number, is that on Tennyson's *Poems*, in which all his best known pieces are subjected to critical analysis.

We observe with pleasure that a second number of the 'Oxford Essays' is announced; and we heartily wish both publications success. Apart from their intrinsic merits, which are great and many, they are interesting as products of our two chief seminaries of learning, and specimens of the working of the system pursued at each.

*Minnesota and the Far West.* By Laurence Oliphant, Esq. Blackwood & Sons.

MINNESOTA is a name not yet familiar to persons on this side "Jordan,"—as the Atlantic is popularly termed in America. It is one of those districts in the Far West which the Red Man retained the longest as his peculiar territory. It has been the last to be invaded by the White Man, yet its name will soon be as common to us as that of any State in the Union. Wigwags have given way to houses, blanket-mantles have retired before swallow-tail coats. There are district towns and a capital city, where a year or two ago were nothing but "lodges." Soil and climate are admirable. Access is daily growing so much easier, the mercantile, agricultural, "lumbering" and mineral interests are so rapidly developing, and the tide of emigration is setting thitherward so steadily, that we do not wonder at the bet offered by one of the inhabitants of the locality, who declares that "We just set up Minnesota against the rest of the world and all the other planets, and coolly offer to back her with any odds you may choose to offer."

Mr. Oliphant's volume is not so much an account of Minnesota, as how he got there, and in what way he returned. Between the two journeys, and they are well narrated, the chapters on the statistics, society, condition, and prospects of Minnesota come upon the reader as a pleasant rest. In these chapters, and indeed throughout the volume, there is abundance of information conveyed; and the serious pages alternate with those of wild adventure, of frolic, and of fun, so as to exhibit the versatility of the

author, and secure the approbation of all but very unreasonable readers.

The route taken by the author was an interesting one. He set out from Toronto, on the north side of Lake Ontario, in the July of last year, by rail; crossed Lake Simcoe; embarked on the Severn River in a bark canoe; entered Georgian Bay, the great water-alcove to Lake Huron; successfully reached the Sault Ste.-Marie; and floated along off the south shore of Lake Superior till he and his party reached Fond du Lac at its western extremity, and proceeded to explore the Far West territory of fertile Minnesota. They passed through this district in a semi-circular direction to its capital, St. Paul; embarked on the Mississippi, which divides it from Wisconsin; travelled, by land and water, to Chicago on the south of Lake Michigan; traversed the Michigan territory to Detroit; and finally proceeded to Niagara, on the south of Lake Ontario, where the reader is left, pleased but not satiated.

The account which Mr. Oliphant furnishes of the Indians is not encouraging, as regards the improvement of the tribes. When they come in contact with the pale-faces, they contract the vices of the latter without losing any of their own; and when they have been brought together in isolated situations, for the purposes of reformation, they sink into a hopeless apathy, and "vegetate, if not in a state of positive barbarism, at least of negative civilization."

The Sault Ste.-Marie was, down to a very recent period, almost the exclusive home of the savage. It is now crowded by ladies and gentlemen, who resort thither as to a favourite watering-place. Mr. Oliphant and his friends, on approaching a very stylish group, was thus accosted:—

"'Strangers, gentlemen, I guess—and Britishers at that,' said the individual with the gun, politely spitting away from us over his friend's shoulder. 'Shall be delighted to render you any service in my power during your stay in this city.' We thanked him for his kindness, and asked him what there was to be done here? 'Well, there's considerable pigeons, if you've a mind to go gunning; and there air days when you may catch trout in the river, out of a bark canoe: it's quite a pleasurable to-cality is the Soo (Sault)—that's a fact.'"

What may be called illustrative portraits are very numerous. Here is a canoe upset in the rapids; two over-venturous Americans are struggling in the waters.—

"As the accident took place immediately opposite the town, many of the inhabitants were attracted to the bank of the river to watch the struggles of the unfortunate men, thinking any attempt at a rescue would be hopeless. Suddenly, however, a person appeared rushing towards the group, frantic with excitement. 'Save the man with the red hair!' he vehemently shouted; and the exertions which were made in consequence of his earnest appeals proved successful, and the red-haired individual, in an exhausted condition, was safely landed. 'He owes me eighteen dollars,' said his rescuer, drawing a long breath and looking approvingly on his assistants. The red-haired man's friend had not a creditor at the Sault, and, in default of a competing claim, was allowed to pay his debt to nature. 'And I'll tell you what it is, stranger,' said the narrator of the foregoing incident, complacently drawing a moral therefrom,—'a man'll never know how necessary he is to society if he don't make his life valuable to his friends as well as to hisself.'"

This individual was anxious for the safety of another; but we meet with one who so little cares for others or himself that he lights his cigar as he sits on an ill-closed barrel of powder, on the crowded deck of a steamer, and coolly remarks, on the danger being pointed out to him, that he certainly "had come darned near busting up the crowd." As the individual, careless of others, so occasionally the Govern-

ment. Thus, in the case of fixing the capital of Michigan. One interest petitioned for it here, another there; and the Government decided the controversy by fixing it at Lansing, "an uninhabited spot in the centre of the country. The most ineligible site in the province was chosen, it being deemed more desirable that the entire State should suffer from its inconvenient position, rather than its general prosperity should be advanced at the expense of certain particular interests." There are some capital sketches of "whittlers,"—who are generally supposed to have adopted the calling merely as an excuse for having their knife out, in order to use it the more readily should its services be required. But these male portraits, of course, have little interest when compared with such graceful outlines of the female form as are etched below. Mr. Oliphant speaks praisingly of the *belles* at Ontonagon, generally; he had, however, as was to be expected, his especial favourite.—

"There was one lovely girl, with a noble, thoughtful brow, black hair and eyes, perfect features, and a most irresistible smile, with that clear, transparent complexion, which is never to be met with out of America, to whom I had from the first ardently desired an opportunity of being introduced; and I shall never forget the thrill of pleasure which I felt when, upon the two guitars and a fiddle ranging themselves along the bottom of the saloon, and striking up a lively tune, this fair creature, near whom I happened to be standing, artlessly remarked, 'that she had a mind to take the knots out of her legs';—a piece of information on her part which I interpreted to mean that I was at liberty to offer my services to assist her in this proceeding, and I accordingly solicited the honour of being her partner, and 'annexed to her right away.'"

The description of the dance that followed is admirably given. At the termination of it, the exhausted maid and swain threw themselves on a couch, "satisfied that the great end had been gained, and that no knot would have been obstinate enough to resist such violent treatment." The American idiom is evidently one of forcible expression,—and the ladies seem fond of it. Thus, at a later period, when the travellers had just gone on board the steamer that was to take them from St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota, down the Mississippi to Galena, they "went in search of cabins, in the course of which Bury found himself, by mistake, in the ladies' saloon,—a fact he was politely informed of by one of the occupants, who said, 'Guess you put for the wrong pew, mister!'"

As a proof, how States grow beyond the Atlantic, we may cite Wisconsin. Seventeen years ago it was admitted into the federation, with a population of eighteen thousand; last year the population exceeded half-a-million. There are as yet a large number of imaginary cities in this State. They look splendid on mapped plans in surveyors' offices in New York, and will doubtless become realities; but at present "the fashionable quarter" must be cut through with a bill-hook,—the business streets are bays or rivulets,—and settlers "get to housekeeping" by cutting away the tangled underwood, and clearing a space for a house. The difficulties are great both to settlers in and travellers through thinly-populated districts. In this part of America there is an almost utter absence of game, and "there is an actual difficulty in procuring means of subsistence with the rifle, in case of the supply of flour running out." But it is a country in which greater difficulties than this soon cease; and we have no doubt that some obstacles to inland navigation, noticed by Mr. Oliphant, will speedily be obviated, whereby a steamer entering the St. Lawrence will be enabled "to make its exit at New Orleans, and complete 4,000 miles of internal freshwater

navigation, through the finest country in "creation." On such a route prosperity is sure to come,—and remain. A "busting up" caused by the slave question could hardly disturb it. In the mean time the country is being occupied.—

"Great numbers of the settlers are Germans, who come penniless to Minnesota, settle upon a piece of land, which they improve to the value of fifty dollars a-year, at the same time earning a livelihood for themselves by obtaining employment in the neighbourhood. When at the end of five years they have thus expended two hundred and fifty dollars on their land, the Government presents them with sixty acres, and they thenceforward set up as small farmers on their own account. The territory is thus becoming rapidly populated by an industrious and enterprising class, who appreciate the good policy which has devised such liberal and advantageous terms to the emigrant."

St. Anthony is only a second-rate town in Minnesota. The first house was built there in 1817. It now possesses a university; with four organized churches, and a population rapidly growing both in numbers and wealth. As for the capital of Minnesota,—the city of St. Paul,—eight years ago the site was occupied by a few huts, and this village was, not very euphoni-ously, called Pig's Eye. Six years ago there was a community established requiring a newspaper, and Colonel Goodhue issued prospectuses accordingly, announcing the first number of his journal, 'The Epistle of St. Paul,'—a name which was changed, in obedience to very natural remonstrance, to that of the *Minnesota Pioneer*. This paper, according to the boast of the editor, has "advocated Minnesota, morality, and religion, from the beginning,"—but Mr. Oliphant thinks it has not been successful with regard to the two latter themes. St. Paul has now four daily, four weekly, and two tri-weekly papers,—“more than Manchester and Liverpool put together.” Churches, hotels, warehouses, and “academies of the highest grade for young ladies,” bespeak its present condition. Three hundred steamers arrive annually at its wharves, bringing new settlers, and carrying away the productions of the territory. As to its future, Colonel Goodhue says:—

“We will give Illinois May the start, and Minnesota shall come out ahead. Don't care what the crop is—any grain, any root—anything from a castor bean, or an apple or pear tree, or a pumpkin, to a sweet potato or a tobacco plant. Why, sucker, do you know you have frosts about two weeks earlier in Illinois than we do here? It is a fact! We will show these people *sights* who come up here in May, and go shivering back home, saying that Minnesota is “too cold for *craps*.” And so on in the same strain with regard to cattle.”

Amid details of trade, and luxuries of life connected therewith, we find that the spirit of savage life is not yet trodden out.—

“The young men of the tribes very often come into the town to trade, and a party of Chippewas had been in St. Paul about three weeks before our visit, who had afterwards gone out upon the war-path. Some Sioux, however, discovered their trail upon the St. Peter's River, between Fort Ridgley and Traverse des Sioux, and having lain in ambush till their enemies were in the act of fording the stream, rushed upon them, and took fifteen scalps. Some of the victims were women and children; the Chippewas are the only tribe who take their families with them on the war path.”

In the last five years the population of the territory has increased from six thousand to one hundred and forty thousand. Its position is nearly at the centre of North America: it has excellent water carriage to the Gulf of Mexico and to the St. Lawrence; and when it is united to the Pacific coast by railways, there will be a chain of communication “which will advance the prosperity not only of the territory from which it started, but of the whole Union and Canada.” To desirable ends there are always

some obstacles; but if the Government occasionally obstruct by delay, there is much that can be effected by “outside influence,”—which means *almighty dollars*. The improvements contemplated in water and rail carriage through this country will bring Shanghai within a month's journey from Liverpool.

We regret to find that there is an almost universal feeling in favour of slavery in this north-west district; but we are not surprised to find, where that feeling exists, a sympathy with the staggering giant against whose aggression the Allies are contending in the Crimea. We give a concluding extract, to show the expression by which such sympathy is rendered. The speaker is a Colonel, one of a tobacco-consuming group in front of the hotel:—

“Wal, you Britishers air 'cute—you go on the high moral ticket. You call annexation robbery and territorial aggression; but there ain't a power in creation that's swallowed more of other people's country without choking than you have when nobody was looking perticler. And now you're a-going to fight for civilisation, by protecting the most barbarous power in Europe, and for liberty by allying yourself with a French despot and a Mahometan tyrant; but chaw me, if liberty ain't a long sight better off in the hands of that old 'possum Nicholas than such mealy-mouthed hypocrites. You understand stabbing great principles in the dark—you do! Liberty's all bunkum with you. If it ain't, what do you go cringing and scraping to all the despots in Europe for, when you could raise the hull Continent in the cause of freedom if you had a mind to? Why don't you choke off your privileged classes, and set your oppressed white niggers free, and give back the black niggers in the Indies the country you've robbed 'em of, instead of screeching at us, and coming over here with your long faces, and almighty jaw, and unre-mittin lies, about slavery and Cuba? There's no sin in creation your no-souled, canting, bellows-winded Parliament won't commit, if they can make a darned cent by it. And if you were to take the Crimea, there'd be no holding you; civilisation and liberty, and all the rest of it, would be in danger over here then,—and the slaves in Cuba would have to be protected, and you'd be fighting against us to preserve the liberal institutions of Spain. But there's no fear of that. The Roosians will whip you into ribbons when they get a chance. Why, they've got the sympathies of our country with them, and it's well known that every great question t'other side Jordan [across the Atlantic] is settled by the public opinion here. You'll find out the mistake you made when we offered to meditate between the *belgeant* powers.—[the colonel never allowed a long word to stop him],—and you took so long to consider upon it that it never came off at all. Now, you'll all go to blazes together, and there ain't a man in these diggins as won't be glad to hear that the old country has a busted-up, fighting for,—ha! ha! ha! boys, what do you think?—*Liberty!*” and the colonel wiped the perspiration from his brow, and looked like a man who felt he had distinguished himself. “That's it, colonel,” says Joe, in an ecstasy of admiration. “Why, it's enough to make a man swaller tobacco to hear him. I guess your Victoria would be down upon you pretty smart if you was to come out like that in your country. We can speak our minds over here; we can blaspheme, and profane, and rip, and snort, jest as we've a mind to, and nobody dar hinder us. Ah! it's a great country.”

These extracts will probably induce many readers not merely to look into, but to study Mr. Oliphant's volume. We have only indicated the leading points. The book itself is as full of information as it is of amusement.

*Hints on the Future Progress and Limits of Civilization*—[*Andeutungen über die künftigen Fortschritte, &c.*]. By M. von Prittwitz. Berlin, Duncker; London, Nutt.

THIS book is the very poetry of political economy. General M. von Prittwitz loves statistical tables and sees eloquence in figures,—reasons closely on the various causes of production

and consumption,—dwells on subjects voted anti-poetical, not only by the voice of common prejudice, but also on account of a character intrinsically prosaic,—and yet he goes through all his details with a glow of hope upon his countenance that gives a lyrical expression to his utterance. The homely items he adds together are intended to form a sum total of future happiness for the human race, and if he can make a result correspond with some aspiration of Schiller, he is delighted to cite the lines of him who above all others has been styled the “poet of progress.” As for the “limits” that are named on the title-page, they turn out to be no limits at all, so far as the great whole is concerned, though there may be particular laws restraining certain individual branches of human activity. General von Prittwitz does not, indeed, commit himself to an avowed belief in the perfectibility of man,—but, nevertheless, it may be easily perceived that he rather refrains from the avowal than from the creed itself, when he utters comfortable expressions like these:—

If science has already been allowed to take a retrospective glance at the time when no living creature dwelt on the frozen crust of earth,—if in the ruins of successive creations she has been able to clearly perceive the gradual development of organization in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and how those, with every creation, became more perfect, until at last by a new miraculous act man stepped into the last creation as a master, may we not be permitted, while surveying these gradations in nature, to inquire whether man, after thus progressing from age to age, may not at last soar up to a higher grade of perfection, which, marking a new era in the history of the earth, will realize that dream, so deeply rooted in the soul of man, of a higher and a better world peopled with beings of a nobler order and more richly endowed?

This is, of course, only a pleasant conjecture; but General von Prittwitz can also afford to be very hopeful in his calmest moments; and after surveying every branch of modern improvement, with an eye to the future, he invariably arrives at results thoroughly of a nature to banish every alarm that the most desponding thinker may form as to the prospects of his great-grandchildren.

Will the men of the future inconveniently elbow each other and exceed the amount of possible nutrition? Not at all, says General von Prittwitz: these evils will both be averted by increased facilities of communication. Neither will the brutes crowd out the human part of the creation, turning the earth into an enormous Smithfield,—nor will man be ever so hard driven to make every square foot of ground yield him subsistence that he will be compelled to abandon all thoughts of parks and pleasure gardens. He will even grow an epicure as he advances, and instead of devoting the produce of nature to the satisfaction of merely animal wants, will aim at the gratification of higher and nobler desires. The number of capitalists is susceptible of indefinite increase, so that the great mass of mankind has within itself the power of acquiring opulence in every land and climate, and in proportion to that increase will be growth of equality among the members of the human family. Thus all the profits which are now promised by socialists and communists will be produced by the natural course of events, without the violent application of any abstract theory.

However, it is not by its grand results that General von Prittwitz's book recommends itself to the reader. In making out a case of progress in all the departments of production and consumption, which he takes into consideration,—and which include every worldly topic that can be written about, talked about, or thought about—he is unwearied in bringing together a large mass of illustrative facts, which he



arranges in the pleasantest manner, and distils into the most cheerful reflections. The veriest smatterer, who cares not a straw for anything beyond his own amusement, may use the book as a *vade-mecum* of economical small-talk, and find as much pleasure as the sterner enthusiast, who sees how industriously the General lays down a foundation on which he may confidently raise an edifice of brilliant hopes. Large questions respecting education and public morals do not exclude dissertations on the probability that flower-gardens may some day cease to be confined to the vicinity of large cities; nor is the article of savoury repasts overlooked in broad considerations of subsistence. A professed enemy to that spirit of contentment, which was so much lauded by ancient poets, but which he rightly interprets as the great cause of degradation and barbarism in certain nations, General von Prittwitz would encourage an universal taste for luxury, and therefore every little nook, in which more increased comfort can be found, is, in his mind, well worth an investigation; though he is careful to give prudential hints against "overrunning the constable," and is such a friend to private economy that he thinks an account with the savings-bank might be placed among the things to be enforced by law.

To all the questions, large and small, which can occur in the broad field of political economy, General von Prittwitz furnishes a ready answer, by fact or by hypothesis, and in every emergency is fully prepared to ward off a panic. What shall we do for a motive power when coals become scarce, is a common problem frequently started by desponding contemporaries to be solved by a shivering and non-locomotive posterity. General von Prittwitz finds hopes in air and water, and looks to the revival of the old windmill as an important mechanical engine.—

Dupin has made a calculation (very hypothetical, it must be admitted), according to which the water-power contained in the flowing streams of France is equal to the continuous labour of 800,000,000 hearty workmen. A similar estimate might be made with respect to wind-power, if we calculated how many windmills could be set up in a country, and then multiplied this number by the known average produce of a single mill. The result would, no doubt, be much more considerable than in the case of water-power. If we add to this the enormous mechanical power which is contained in the ebb and flow of water, and which is now actually employed in many places to set mills in motion (the water, when high, streaming into an artificial basin, which it leaves at the ebb, so that a stream is formed which yields a motive-power for the mill)—and, lastly, take into account the inexhaustible mechanical power of the wind, employed in navigation—it is not easy to see how there will ever be a deficiency of motive power for the industrial purposes of man. Moreover, since there will be a constant increase of accumulated capitals, since the rate of interest will consequently decline, and thus, as well as in consequence of improved communication and increased simplicity in productive operations, almost all industrial schemes will become less expensive, there can be no doubt that man will in future be enabled to make a much more extensive use than hitherto of all these motive powers, to carry out a number of schemes, and to procure for himself luxuries, of which, on account of the heaviness of their cost, and the small profit to be derived from them, he cannot so much as think at the present day. With respect to steam, however, we are justified in the expectation that its employment will some day be limited by an increased scarcity of fuel, and that, in many cases, it will be necessary to have recourse once more to wind and water, unless some other equally or more efficient power is discovered which requires little or no fuel. Even at the present time the wind and water powers are preferable to steam on account of their greater cheapness. The example of Holland, with her 18,000 windmills, of 90,000

horse-power, 60,000 of which are required to drain the land, shows what can be made of wind-power.

The question between manual labour and machinery, which once, more than any other, alienated the political economist from the operative classes, and was so practically discussed by the latter in the Luddite riots, is thus agreeably settled by General von Prittwitz, anxious to allay any fears that hands may eventually be laid aside as clumsy imperfect utensils, in the days of a high civilization.—

As the eye among the organs of sense, so does the hand hold the highest place among the members fitted for mechanical operations; and it would be difficult perfectly to enumerate and conveniently to classify the thousandfold uses to which it may be applied, from the blow of the axe to the stroke of the painter's pencil and the movement of the violinist's bow. But for this very reason, that the hand is such a docile and apt servant of the human will, its place can be advantageously supplied in those functions that merely require brute force, or consist in operations of perpetual recurrence, by other animal or elementary powers, or even by machines; and in several respects, especially when uniformity of work is required (as, for instance, in cotton-spinning), it is excelled by them. On the contrary, in all those operations where the action of the hand must be varied every instant to suit the object of the work and the will of the artificer, it will always remain the most precious of implements, the place of which can be supplied by no other, and the results of its labour will be the more valuable the more intellectual and artistic are the talents of the individual to whom the implement belongs, and the more long practice has brought it to perfection. Hence we may perceive that the duration of most handicrafts, as, for instance, those of the tailor, shoemaker, joiner, cartwright, bookbinder, dyer, &c.—in which each single production must be accommodated every instant to the individual inclinations and wants of the purchaser—is secured for all ages; and the same may be said of all those trades in which the place of operation is constantly changing, as the carpenter's, mason's, glazier's, and locksmith's; further, of all those which are devoted to the repair of articles already used; and lastly of menial servitude, although here social manners and relations exercise great influence. Above all, the permanence and the constant extension of every really artistic occupation through the constantly advancing cultivation of the people, however wide may be the spread of manufacture by machinery, cannot admit of a doubt. Most worthy of note, in this respect, is the remark made by a competent judge, that, "among the many objects with which every attentive observer of the Industrial Exhibition has come acquainted, one reflection of unquestionable importance may be made, namely, that mere goodness and intrinsic value are not sufficient to compete with success in the world's market; but that taste and beauty must be added as indispensable requisites."

Indeed, the cessation of human labour in all works that demand physical force only, and its limitation to those operations in which some degree of intellect is required, is one of the phenomena that will take place when such a degree of civilization is attained as will correspond to the expectations of General von Prittwitz. The competent judge is M. G. Waagen, whose words are cited from an official report.

*Fourteenth and Fifteenth Annual Reports of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England.* Printed by Eyre & Spottiswoode.

SOME interesting details are to be gathered from these Reports. Mr. George Graham, the Registrar-General, besides analyzing carefully the statistics of his department, appends a succession of clear abstracts, or summaries, of results. The year 1851, as that in which the Census was taken, affords the widest basis. Previously, the rates of marriage, birth, and mortality had been calculated on the Population Returns of 1841, and there was a necessary confusion of figures:—1851 was a year

of prosperity,—the marriages and births exceeded, and the deaths were below, the average. There were 308,000 persons married—a number equal to four-fifths of the deaths, and to half the births. Five per cent. (omitting fractions) of the men, and 15 per cent. of the women, were under 21 years of age:—14 in 100 of the men were widowers; 9 in 100 of the women widows.

69 in 100 of the men, and 55 in 100 of the women, wrote their names in the register. The rest signed with marks. During the 5 years ending with 1851 these proportions had varied but little, and the deficiency of instruction, for which the classical county of Cambridge had been notorious, was still observable. In the same rank with Cambridge stand Hertford, Bucks, Bedford, Essex, and others. A curious result is deduced, by Mr. Graham, from these Returns. In 36,000 marriages both husband and wife signed with marks,—in 73,000 both wrote their names,—in 44,000 one or the other used a mark. "Does this imply," asks Mr. Graham, "that the ignorant have a tendency to marry the ignorant in a greater or less proportion than the learned up to the writing-point marry the ignorant, or than those so far learned marry the learned? It is evident, from these numbers, that in 24 out of every 100 families neither the husband nor the wife can write, that in 47 both can write, and that in 29 one can." Whatever may be the inference, it is obvious that the schoolmaster is needed in a country in which the children, in 24 families out of 100, are without the advantage of having either a father or a mother who can write their own names.

The mothers of all the children born in England—taking 1851 as the standard year—are between the ages of 15 and 55,—the majority between 20 and 40. To this part of the subject Mr. Graham adds some explanations, to "calm the apprehensions of those who entertain any dread of the depopulation of the kingdom."

395,000 deaths were registered in the course of the year. Applying these figures to the analytical Census, it is ascertained that farmers are the longest lived; the shortest being miners, bakers, butchers, and inn and beershop keepers.

Some of the varieties of the calculations are curious. Thus, from the "Marriage-tables" we find that, in 1851, 5,000 widowers were married to spinsters, 2,400 bachelors to widows, and 2,700 widowers to widows. More than 7,000 widowers stand here, by the side of rather more than 5,000 widows. In one case, a widower of ninety was married to a spinster of eighty. The youngest widower was twenty, the youngest widow sixteen.

At the Census of 1851, there were returned as "persons of rank and property, not described as of any office or occupation," 30,700 individuals. Of these 3,000 died within the year. Under the head "Persons engaged in Literature, the Fine Arts, and Science," there were 34,000, exhibiting a mortality of barely 600. The former class probably included many of advanced age. The latter includes 25,000 "teachers," whose vocation does not seem peculiarly detrimental to life. 241 "gentlemen of independent means" died at above the age of eighty-five, but with the exception of farmers and labourers, few other classes contribute to this column.

Glancing at the tabular statement of the causes of death, some interesting results are to be detected. Pthisis, or Consumption, occupies the first place in the list, Pneumonia the second, Convulsions the third, and Typhus the fourth. Thirty-four females died of the gout, which, as Mr. Prescott has remarked *a propos* of Margaret of the Netherlands, is a manly disease. It is curious to find that, in 1851, twenty-nine men perished in England from "privation of food," and exactly the same number of women. Under the head "Poisons," the numbers are almost equally balanced; under that of "Intemperance," the men largely preponderate.

In the section which classifies the deaths according to occupation, there is not much completeness. Mr. Graham admits and explains the difficulty. Thus, only 397 persons are specified as "Scientific," whereas a majority of scientific men belong to one or the other of the learned professions, and

are so enumerated. This mortality among them, therefore exhibited in these tables, will not serve as the basis of any calculations. Were it not for these necessary deficiencies,—by no means to be imputed as faults to Mr. Graham,—the Returns would be valuable social studies. As it is, it would be worth examining why, in 1851, there were more deaths among 800 prisoners than among 19,000 paupers, both classes of “no stated occupation”; and why “vagrants” seem particularly healthy.

In 1852, there was an increase in the number of marriages, births, and deaths. Only 30 per cent. of the men, and 44 per cent. of the women, signed with marks. There were 6,000 marriages between bachelors and widows, 14,000 between widowers and spinsters, and 7,300 between widowers and widows; the number of widowers married being threefold that of the preceding years. The proportion of minors was nearly the same. Readers who are curious on the subject of social statistics may derive abundance of practical information from this volume.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Cross Purposes: a Novel.* By Catherine Sinclair. 3 vols. (Bentley).—This novel seems contrived “a double debt to pay”; it is at once a Temperance oration and an Exeter Hall tirade against the machinations of the Jesuits and the Catholic religion in general. The two chief agents in the story,—who do all the heavy work,—are respectively Catholic and Protestant:—the Catholic is a murderer, and the Protestant a drunkard; but then the Catholic is not only a murderer, but he endeavours to fix the guilt upon an innocent man; even the drunkenness, which is the cause of the Protestant committing crimes worthy of transportation, is entirely owing to the cunning, seductive, and diabolical skill of the Catholic villain, who makes the other a drunkard for his own purposes; consequently, the candid reader is expected to be logical, and draw the moral, that the Roman Catholic religion is the root, branch, fruit, and personification “of all evil.” As to the story, it passes our powers of description or analysis. There is a frightful murder at the very beginning,—a forged will and a Jesuit priest, who in various disguises tracks the steps of the two lovely heroines with the intention of placing them in a convent, and obtaining their fortune for the good of the Church. The Protestant guardian, under stress of strong drink, embezzles their money—brings himself to *delirium tremens*—and involves the young ladies in such a complicated web of poverty, misery and shameful mystery, that the reader will be inclined to wish them safe in a convent, or, as poor Hood says, “anywhere, anywhere out of the world.” They become “distressed needlewomen,” and endure hard work and starvation, until one sister falls ill of brain fever, and the other flings herself recklessly into the streets; but instead of following the laws of gravitation and going to destruction, she meets the noble lover of whom she had lost sight for many months—finds an uncle, the possessor of untold virtues and ample estates; but who ought to have been at home a long while ago instead of travelling all over the world,—in which case, however, the book could not have been written. The other sister recovers from her brain fever, to be adopted as the bosom friend and companion of an angelic lady of large fortune, who is mourning after a truant lover, and finds no consolation except in visiting poor people. Of course she turns out to be the lady who had been the means of sending the good uncle on his travels all through a misunderstanding, which in real life could not have held together for a day. They meet again with delight, everybody is reconciled to everybody; the Jesuit monster, who has been the cause of all the woe, is hanged; the Protestant guardian, after making a Temperance oration, goes out to drown himself, but is picked up and taken to the hospital, where he does his conversion before he finally dies. Whilst all this poetical justice is taking its course the noble lovers of the two lovely sisters go off to the Crimea, assist at the fall of Sebastopol, are dangerously wounded; but come

home, get well, and are married, “wearing their Crimean medals” on the occasion. The scene closes at St. George’s, Hanover Square, on the 25th of October last, when “the sun shone, the bells rang, carriages rushed frantically about Belgrave adorned with favours, and the crowd in St. George’s, Hanover Square, baffled all description.”

*The Lances of Lynwood.* By the Author of ‘The Little Duke,’ ‘Heartsease,’ &c. With Illustrations. (Parker).—This is an outline gathered from Froissart, and cleverly filled up and coloured. It has been made into a readable pleasant story, and shows much care in the getting-up both of the characters and manners of the time—both are somewhat softened and toned down to meet the taste of the present day; but it will be a popular gift-book for the ensuing season.

*Charles Worthington.* By Harry Singleide. (Piper & Co.).—‘Charles Worthington’ is a mistake. It is dull and foolish.

*Gilbert Messenger.* By Holme Lee. (Smith, Elder & Co.).—In each succeeding work by this author, we mark an improvement in the interest as well as in the workmanship of his stories; but we wish he would throw a little more sunshine into them. ‘Gilbert Messenger’ is a condensed and powerfully-written story, upon a subject that just now seems to possess a peculiar fascination for authors,—hereditary insanity, and the moral duty it entails of self-sacrifice. In the book before us, it is a man who has to suffer, and whose strong and noble character makes him worthy to belong to the army of martyrs. He is an orphan, the last of his family, brought up by an aunt, a rigid Calvinist, who has herself sacrificed her own affections and all her hopes in life from a conviction “that it is wrong to perpetuate this awful curse, and miserable selfishness to hand down to innocent children such an inheritance of utter wretchedness.” But the latent insanity takes in her the turn of bitter fanaticism and the very sternest and most terrible form of Juggernaut worship,—which she inculcates upon Gilbert from his tenderest years, with a view to mortifying all his natural affections. But the particular end in view in his case is not impressed upon him, because he runs away from home before that part of his duty has been enforced. After encountering difficulties which would have broken an ordinary man to pieces, but which only knit his energies the firmer, he comes in sight of the reward of all his toil—advancement in his profession, and the devoted love of a charming young girl, whom he loves with all his strength; and then the secret of his aunt’s life is opened to him, and with it the conviction that he also is bound to do likewise. The interest is painfully and powerfully wrought up.

*Everley: a Tale.* (Masters).—This is a well-meant religious story, albeit written with a very soft pen. The chief intention is to teach young ladies how to make themselves useful and pleasant in their own homes, and there is much good counsel that they would be all the better for taking to heart. There is also a supplementary moral, which seems to say that it is better to marry an interesting young clergyman than one of any other degree under the moon. The book in its style and tone reminds us of Grace Kennedy’s Novels, which were popular in the religious world many years ago.

*Manchester Worthies and their Foundations; or, Six Chapters on Local History, with an Epilogue by way of Moral.* By Edward Edwards. (Manchester, Galt & Co.).—This pamphlet, which has a local interest where it might have had a general one, is devoted principally to the Chetham Foundations in the cotton capital; with an after-word on the uses to which the Hulme Legney might be applied, were charitable bequests administered in the charitable spirit of progress—and not according to the legal letter of parchment-bound formality, which permits the inroad of every abuse, and sanctions the exclusion of all ameliorations, let times, manners, and the value of property change ever so largely. There is a minute specification, among other items, of the contents and curiosities of the Chetham Library; but the manner in which Mr. Edwards has shut up himself and his subject within needlessly narrow limits, will be implied

when it is stated, that among his notes, which are copious, and his references, which are numerous, mention of the “Chetham Society” is so hard to find that we are not sure if any such mention exists at all,—yet some of the treasures referred to, among others the excellent and graphic ‘Life of Adam Martindale,’ were given to the public by the agency of that Society. Our observation does not count against the value of Mr. Edwards’s collections, being solely meant to indicate that their value is special.

*The Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts of 1855 (18 & 19 Vict. cc. 116 and 121); with an Introduction, Notes, and Index.* By W. G. Lumley, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. (Knight & Co.).—This will, we think, prove a great help in the application of the above statutes,—and we need hardly say that help is requisite. Mr. Lumley is conversant with all the recent legislation relating to the public health, and appears to have a practical knowledge of the working of the law on this subject. He has embodied much of this information in his Introduction and Notes, and the Index is copious and well arranged. In the statutes themselves a laudable attempt at brevity is to be observed, but we think that the language will in many places be found loose and inaccurate. A form of an annual return of proceedings under the Nuisances Act is found in the Schedule. This is nowhere mentioned in the Act, and it does not appear to whom it is to be made. What is this? Can it be what the author of the ‘Plurality of Worlds’ would call “a mass flung off in the work of creating” Acts of Parliament which has accidentally adhered? There is another novelty in the Nuisances Act. Instead of enacting that a stipendiary magistrate shall have jurisdiction under the Act, the interpretation clause declares “that the expression two Justices shall, in addition to its ordinary signification, mean one stipendiary or police magistrate.” This is too bad; the satire upon the unpaid magistracy contained in this equation is obvious.

*Chaplain’s Thirtieth and Thirty-first Report on the County House of Correction at Preston. Presented to the Magistrates of Lancashire, 1855.* (Preston, Clarke).—Mr. Clay presents in these Reports the statistics of 1853 and 1854, separately. He divides the subject into sections, treating of committals, trials, the conduct of prisoners of various ages, the general state of crime in Lancashire, its causes, and the effects of reformatory discipline. An interesting section is devoted to the comparative criminality of English counties, showing that offences against the law are treated less severely in dense than in scanty populations. Among the results ascertained within the area of his special investigations, he assumes, that highway robberies, in every instance, have been the consequence of drunkenness,—that there has been a remarkable decrease in the transportation of young offenders,—that operatives bear adversity better than prosperity,—and that distress alone is productive of little crime. At the same time, he confirms the accounts that have been published of the ignorance existing in Lancashire,—and presents, in diagrams, his view of the relation between education, religious habits, drinking, and crime. In ten years, he remarks, a million and a half of persons passed through the prisons of the United Kingdom. However, out of the 470,000 inhabitants of North Lancashire, the proportion of criminality was singularly small,—even in 1854, the year of the great Preston Strike. About 2,100 boys and 5,500 girls were kept in compulsory idleness for seven months; but of the girls, only twenty found their way into prison. Mr. Clay considers that the ticket-of-leave system has been hastily and unreasonably condemned,—mentioning, that of forty-five convicts so liberated in North Lancashire in 1854 two only returned temporarily to prison, and neither for a desperate offence. Both are now leading respectable lives. On the subject of ignorance he affords some practical illustrations. He framed, some years ago, a series of questions to test the inmates of the Preston jail—seven women and eighteen men. No one could tell the names of the months in succession. Six of the men and all the women were utterly ignorant even of the Duke



of Wellington's name. Most had a dim recollection of "hearing tell" of Nelson. Seventeen could not tell the Queen's name; four thought it was "Prince Albert."—"Did you ever hear of the Duke of Wellington?" said Mr. Clay to one of the prisoners.—"No, but I seed his shape once."—"Did you see it over a public-house door?"—"No, I seed it ridin' on a jacksaw with a pipe in its mouth and a pair o' hod boots on." Dick Turpin and Jack Sheppard had a more extended reputation. However, the better class of cheap publications, which improve and amuse, make way in the county,—the stories of 'Claude Duval,' 'Ela the Outcast,' and 'Paul the Reckless,' giving place to cheap weekly serials containing fiction, essays, and sketches more or less entertaining and improving.—Mr. Clay's Reports are full of valuable matter, clearly connected and illustrated by ingenious diagrams.

Mr. Thring, of whose 'English Grammar' we have made favourable mention, has carried out the same excellent principles of teaching language in a little volume called *A Construing Book*, which consists of extracts from Latin authors, arranged in such a way as to illustrate the principal syntactical rules (which are well explained), and at the same time show how, from the shortest and simplest elementary sentences, the longer and more complex ones which occur in the classics may be gradually built up.—*Etling's Drawing-Room Atlas of Europe* is a handsome little volume, containing sixteen maps.

Among new volumes of works in progress, we have on our table Vol. III. of Mr. Hallam's *History of England*.—Vol. II. of Lord Brougham's *Lives of the Statesmen of the Time of George the Third*.—Vol. VI. of the *Select Works of Dr. Chalmers*, containing the 'Evidences of Christianity' and the 'Lectures on Paley,'—and a second volume of a *History of Commercial Reform in England* [*Histoire de la Reforme*, &c.], by M. Henri Richelot, of which work we have not seen the first volume. The *Story of the Campaign of Sebastopol*, written in camp by Lieut.-Col. Hamley, has been reprinted from *Blackwood's Magazine*,—and we have *Scenes from the Life of a Sufferer*, reproduced from *Hogg's Instructor*.—Amongst books with the vague title of new edition, we see on our table a compact and agreeable reprint of Mr. Forster's *Life and Times of Goldsmith*, apparently condensed from a second edition, which we are informed in the Preface "it is not meant to displace." Following into this category, we have a new edition, in two handsome volumes, of Lord Brougham's *Travels in Albania and other Provinces of Turkey in 1809 and 1810*, in company with Lord Byron. These travels have a perennial interest in connexion with the wanderings of Childe Harold, and Lord Brougham has done well in reproducing them in their most perfect form.—*Villette*, by Currer Bell, has been reprinted so as to range with the cheap editions of 'Jane Eyre' and 'Shirley.'—We have also new editions of Mr. Denny's *Alpha*,—and of Mr. Fullom's *Daughter of Night*. The following works appear in second editions—*Le Censeur*; or, *English Errors in speaking French*,—*Conversational French Phrases*, by A. Habesak,—*A Manual of Photographic Chemistry*, by T. F. Hardwick,—*English Democracy: its History and Principles*, by J. A. Langford,—and Mr. R. Jones's *General Outline of the Organization of the Animal Kingdom*. We have also an impression of the "second thousand" of *The Newspaper and General Reader's Pocket Companion*.—Mr. Groves's *Correlation of Physical Forces* appears in a third edition,—Mr. Vaux's *Nineveh and Persepolis* in a fourth,—*Haydn's Dictionary of Dates* in a seventh edition, with additions,—and Mr. George Jackson's *New Check Journal*, and Mr. William Tate's *Modern Cambist*, both in eighth editions.—In this place we may announce the arrival in this country of the first volume of *The Crayon* (Trübner & Co.), an American journal of which we have lately spoken.

## MEDICAL BOOKS.

On the Nature, Treatment, and Prevention of Pulmonary Consumption, and incidentally of Scrofula, with a Demonstration of the Cause of the Disease. By Henry M'Cormac, M.D. (Longman &

Co.—We see, from notices of former works by this author, prefixed to the present one in the form of advertisement, that a friendly newspaper has said that, "If he have not the originality of Locke, he has ten times the clearness, ten times the taste, of that author," and that "he has more depth than Fénelon." Dr. M'Cormac, not satisfied with this laudation, which seems to cast a slur upon his originality, is determined in the present work to show that he is original, as well as deep, and clear, and a man of taste. He has taken Consumption for the subject upon which to exercise his genius. "For the first time in the history of the disease," says our author, "I would proclaim that phthisis is absolutely within our control, and that no one need become consumptive who does not choose it." Admirable announcement! We wish you could make good these words, Dr. M'Cormac! And again, having warmed with his theme, he still more loftily proclaims: "I am perhaps the only physician of my time and standing, possibly the only one, who is intimately and entirely convinced.....that with proper means and appliances [to be administered by Dr. M'Cormac!] it is in every single instance preventible!" The note of admiration is the learned author's. He would establish his position in the scientific history of the deadly malady as follows:—"Bandelocque furnished the antithesis to Laennec's thesis, as my own observations and inferences, based on what they have done, will, I trust, prove the synthesis and complement of their labours." Few of our readers have not heard of cod-liver oil, and understood, too, that physicians almost universally regard its use as an immense gain to practical medicine. But listen to the words of the "original" Dr. M'Cormac upon this matter:—"I feel ashamed at once of myself and of my profession, when I find a substance like fish-oil exhibited in tons.....But the employment of cod-liver oil, whether to prevent or remove phthisis, will lapse into as well-deserved oblivion as the practice, once so general, of sending consumptive persons into cow-houses." We shall be spared the trouble of rendering any further account of this combination of ignorance and pretentiousness.

*Statistics and Treatment of Typhus and Typhoid Fever, from Twelve Years' Experience gained at the Seraphim Hospital, in Stockholm.* By Magnus Huss, M.D. Translated from the Swedish Original, by Ernst Aberg, M.D. (Longman & Co.)—This treatise constitutes a valuable contribution to the history and pathology of fever. For some years a difference of opinion has prevailed amongst physicians regarding the specific unity or diversity of the so-called typhus and typhoid fevers. At this period, the balance of judgment is largely in favour of there being an essential difference in the two forms of morbid action; but Dr. Huss maintains the views of the minority, that typhus and typhoid fevers are modifications only of the same disease. Those medical men who, either on speculative or on practical grounds, take interest in the controversy will do well to read the work before us. As implied by its title, the book abounds in statistical facts, which seem to have been carefully and judiciously brought together,—a circumstance which gives to it a sound scientific character. It may be well to mention that the translation is well done, the reader being rarely reminded that he is engaged otherwise than with an original work.

*Climate, Weather, and Disease; being a Sketch of the Opinions of the most Celebrated Ancient and Modern Writers with regard to the Influence of Climate and Weather in producing Disease.* By Alfred Haviland. (Churchill.)—This is a well-written, agreeable, and interesting book. It consists principally of comparisons of certain data supplied by the Hippocratic writings and modern observations relating to the connexion between meteorological states and epidemic diseases. We recognize nothing either very new or striking in the work; it will, nevertheless, repay perusal. We have, however, one common fault to find with disquisitions of this class,—the instances which they bring together are too exclusively positive. Thus, we have certain states of weather and climate cited, and then the coincident phenomena of disease, and a casual relation is

thereby suggested between the two sets of conditions. But we desire the negative instances—those in which corresponding states of weather and climate are found without the occurrence of particular ailment in concomitance or immediate sequence. We believe that the direct excitant—the *vera causa*—of most epidemic diseases has yet to be discovered; we do not believe that any of our present sanitary theories are at all complete. Our author, we notice, has adopted an ingenious and admirably-reasoned view, recently suggested by Dr. Carpenter, concerning the conditions that predispose to zymotic maladies. In this view, prominent influence is given to abnormal accumulation in the blood of the products of what is called the retrograde metamorphosis of the tissues. We think that Mr. Haviland is right in the adoption of this theory; but we think, at the same time, that he ought to have made an appropriate reference to its author.

*On Caries of the Teeth, and the Cure of the Tooth-ache without Extraction.* By Donaldson Mackenzie. (Churchill.)—When we opened this little brochure, and fell upon pages headed "Cure for Toothache," our first disposition was to throw it down, and not to resume it. We thought that we had got one of the thousand-and-one charlatanic productions that affect to aid us charitably in the mitigation of our dental sufferings. But we turned over a few pages, and soon discovered that we had, on the contrary, an interesting and valuable little treatise. The topics appear to be handled in an able manner, and the author is evidently a scientific man; and we should think a careful, acute, and well-practised surgeon-dentist. It is hardly within our province to pronounce critically upon such a publication; we can but record our impressions; and these lead us to recommend Mr. Mackenzie's pamphlet to all who are practically interested in the subjects with which it deals.

*Medical Notes and Reflections.* By Sir Henry Holland, Bart., M.D. Third Edition. (Longman & Co.)—A work like this, from such an author as Sir Henry Holland, that has reached its third edition, requires little exposition or commendation from us. We may note, however, what the accomplished writer tells us in his Preface, that, whilst in the two former editions a few chapters on psychological subjects were included, he has now withdrawn them, because, three years ago, he published his amplified views thereupon in a separate volume, entitled 'Chapters on Mental Physiology.' By this proceeding he has, in the present edition, been enabled, without materially extending his pages, to replace the psychological matter by a few additional chapters, taken from among certain papers, of which he originally intended to make a second volume. We congratulate the profession on the success of this book. It is one of those that, whilst abounding in information, suggest thought and tend to develop habits of thinking,—a result the absence of which we have too often had occasion to lament in our intercourse with members of the medical profession.

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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#### ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE ARCTIC REGIONS.

THE recent return of Dr. Kane has made the world ring with the announcement of his discovery of a "vast open iceless Polar Sea." The chief result of his voyage may be stated in a few words thus:—Having reached Smith Sound, he found further progress by vessel impossible, owing to a body of pack-ice of the heaviest description blocking up the strait. He, therefore, put his brig into winter quarters in a bay on the east coast of Smith Sound, in latitude 73° 44' north (probably the indentation between the Pelham Point and Stafford Head of Ingfield), and from this point explored the region eastward and northward in sledges. The reports hitherto published in the American papers are not quite clear as to the precise position of the region discovered; it appears, however, that the arm of the sea forming the continuation of Smith Sound extends almost due east as far as 60° W. long.; whence it is deflected in a N.N.W. direction, until, in latitude 82° N. it expands into an extensive sea, "entirely free from ice" at the time when Dr. Kane beheld it.

It further appears that the region between 78° and 82° of latitude is quite akin in character to the ice-bound labyrinth forming the chief scene of the Franklin search further south. In proceeding over this extensive and barren region, Dr. Kane's party was not a little astonished in noticing a gradual increase of temperature the further they went to the northward, until at last their progress was arrested by that vast sea already mentioned, extending further than the eye could reach, teeming with animal life, great numbers of herbivorous and other animals, and birds feeding on its shores or roaming in fearless indifference in the neighbourhood. "A north wind, fifty-two hours in duration, failed to bring any drift-ice into this area."

Those conversant with the geography of the Arctic Regions will probably agree with me if I, in the first place, venture to suggest that the term "open" Polar Sea applied to latitudes of 82° and 83° N., can have only a mere relative and vague, uncertain meaning, because in those latitudes any part of the sea, however narrow and ice-bound, may be open at times, and no part of it, however extensive and deep, can be entirely and always free from ice. The term is more in its place when used in a comparative or circumscribed sense, as, for instance, when saying that Baffin's Bay is an open (or more open) sea as compared to Wellington Channel, and the latter, again, with its northerly outlets, an open (or more open) channel than Banks Strait or Prince of Wales Channel. The term "open Polar Sea," no doubt, will be rightly understood in its bearing and import, in each individual case so used, by persons accustomed to a critical view of such subjects, but for general use it leads to much misconception, and is altogether superfluous when, as in speaking of Dr. Kane's open sea, the epithet "iceless" is added to it. There can be no doubt about the precise meaning of the latter, for it implies a sea entirely free from ice, whereas the term "open" sea by no means excludes the existence of vast quantities of that frigid article.

As to the term "iceless" sea, it conveys, in this instance, altogether an erroneous meaning, such as Dr. Kane probably did not intend to impart to it, for in speaking of that Northern Sea under this denomination, he and his companions describe the nature of that sea at the particular time when they saw it, and these statements I have not the slightest ground or wish to doubt or disbelieve. But I do most decidedly doubt it to be a *permanently* iceless sea, notwithstanding the extraordinary fact of continued north wind having failed to bring any ice into it. Such an occurrence only shows how effectually the ice formed during the previous win-

ter may be swept away by the currents out of a sea situated even under the most northern latitudes. I find a similar observation recorded by that great Arctic navigator and acute observer, Sir Edward Parry, in his "Narrative, 1827," p. 127. It relates to the sea north of Spitzbergen (where Capt. Phipps had previously found an impenetrable barrier of boundless pack-ice), as seen after his return to that country from his adventurous boat-voyage towards the North Pole about the latter end of August:—"As the wind now blew so much upon the shore, I was in momentary expectation of seeing some ice come in; but we were agreeably surprised to find that none appeared. This circumstance appeared to us the more remarkable, from the extraordinary rapidity with which, in the month of June, the very lightest air from the westward brought the drift-ice in upon the land, rendering their shores quite inaccessible in the course of a few hours."

I have entered into these remarks on the meaning of the term "open" and "iceless," as it seems to me that a great deal of confusion, doubt, and misconception has arisen in Arctic Geography from different interpretations of these terms. But while expressing the foregoing objections to their ambiguous and unrestricted use, I am bound to own myself at a loss for another word which, in my humble opinion, would form a precise denomination for a sea such as that discovered by Dr. Kane. The Russian word "Polynia" means spaces of open water within the icy seas, and is nearly the equivalent for the English "Lane,"—lanes of open water. *Unfrozen* sea would already be nearer the mark, namely a sea that never freezes entirely over.

Reading the reports of Dr. Kane's voyage with due regard to the restrictive meaning of the terms in which they are framed, it is beyond all doubt that he discovered an extensive Polar Sea which is *never entirely frozen over*.

This evidence of an unfrozen sea and a comparatively mild climate, with kindred phenomena, in latitudes ranging from 82° northward, is a full corroboration of the discovery of a similar sea further to the eastward, by Parry, Wrangell, and others; but it is still more decisive in its bearing than either of these, because Dr. Kane's sea lies in close contiguity and on the northern side of the most northern land yet discovered, and a land, be it remembered, of the most dismal description, whereas the sea reached by Sir Edward Parry in latitude 82½° N. is simply the continuation of the Atlantic swept by powerful polar currents with the influence of the warm Gulf Stream in its flank, while Wrangell's Sea lies in latitudes six degrees further south. Dr. Kane's Polar Sea is the most interesting, as it seems pretty evident that it cannot be connected with the great Arctic Sea, or what I would call the real Polar Basin,—namely, the sea between Spitzbergen and Siberia. And here I may be permitted to refer briefly to Capt. Ingfield's voyage to Smith Sound three years ago. The view that gentleman took at the time in announcing that, by entering Whale Sound and Smith Sound, he believed he had "discovered and entered the Polar Sea," through which, he thought, "he would have been able to push in the direction of Behring's Strait, had not a gale arisen," &c.,—was strongly combated by me then [see *Athen.* Nos. 1309 and 1311], and I endeavoured to show that such a view was fallacious, and based upon no tenable grounds. I concluded my remarks in the following words [No. 1311, p. 1359]:—"Thus it appears that the reasons assigned for the theory of a communication between Baffin's Bay and the Polar Basin are slight in comparison with those which tell against it. Greenland may—and very likely does—contract about the 80th parallel: it may there become only a narrow neck of land; but that land, there is reason to conjecture, extends a great way in a northerly direction towards Behring's Strait,—and it is my firm conviction that navigators entering the sea to the north of Baffin's Bay, in the hope of reaching the Polar Basin, would find a mere *cul-de-sac*, not even connected with the sea to the south of Wellington Channel."—These views have, I think, been pretty closely corroborated by Dr. Kane's voyage,—he has found

that Smith Sound "terminates in a gulf." The reasons against Capt. Ingfield's theory hold just as good now as then; and, therefore, I am inclined to think that, if no stronger ground be adduced to establish the insularity of Greenland by a channel under the 80th parallel, than the existence in that direction of a mighty glacier,—it is open to much doubt. That glacier, in all probability, rests on land, and no channel has ever been in that locality, or else some of the immense masses of drift-wood known to exist on the east side of Greenland would surely have found its way to the arm of the sea explored by Dr. Kane. No positive or direct statement is made as to the total absence of this interesting object in the reports before me, however lengthy and circumstantial they are in other respects, but by indirect evidence it seems beyond all doubt that driftwood is entirely absent in those waters:—the want of fuel is continually complained of, and it became the source of the greatest hardships to Dr. Kane's party; "during the winter fuel having become short, Dr. Kane was compelled to convert the floors, inner planking, spars, and finally the very floors to the cabins, in which himself and officers lodged, into fuel." Again: the Esquimaux in that region had no kayacks, and the few sledges they possessed were made almost exclusively out of walrus-tusks, and not of wood.

It is quite clear, from all these particulars, that no driftwood reaches those waters, which further renders it all but certain that no connection exists between them and the Great Polar Basin, namely, that sea, in reference to which Sir Edward Parry, from personal experience, emphatically declares:—"A ship might have sailed to the latitude of 82°, almost without touching a piece of ice." (Parry's "Narrative," p. 148.)

But however this may be, the truth of the grand geographical feature of an *unfrozen Polar Sea* to the north of the most northern land yet discovered cannot be for a moment doubted.

In considering the bearing of Dr. Kane's discovery on Arctic Geography, we are led to the North Pole itself, as the point around which all others in the Arctic Regions are naturally grouped. The question is, what is the nature of that interesting spot? Whether land or sea (I am inclined to think the latter), does it or does it not comprise the maximum of ice, and snow, and cold, as it does form the mathematical centre of the Frigid Zone? And do, in a corresponding manner, the lines of latitude indicate the progressive ratio of decrease of the temperature and other phenomena following in its train? It has been the general, and, perhaps, still is the more prevailing, opinion that such is the case. It so happens that the Expeditions in search of Franklin have, most of them, extended to latitudes between 70° and 77° N., and only in a few cases beyond that. They have, in these latitudes, found a labyrinthine system of clumps of lands and islands connected together by narrow channels, full of ice and glaciers, most difficult and hazardous for navigation. It has been generally inferred, if the Arctic Regions between 70° and 77° N. latitude are of so dreary, so difficult and dangerous character, how much more so must they be further north and under the Pole itself! So much did this impression prevail, that, when Capt. Penny, in 1851, discovered, north of Wellington Channel, a sea more open, more extensive, and with more animal life than those arms of the sea to the south of it, it was actually disbelieved at first by many of the principal officers of the searching squadron. Then, again, when Capt. Ingfield reported the discoveries he had made at the top of Baffin's Bay, it was said that "they did not appear to give much promise of Elysian fields and oases nearer the Pole." Others had even calculated, how much the mean annual temperature at the Pole must be as compared with that of southerly latitudes. In vain did the results of the memorable journeys of Sir Edward Parry, Wrangell, Anjou, and others, point to the fallacy of such views,—the favourite theory was still clung to. Sir Edward Parry's journey to the North Pole was undertaken, as is well known, on the supposition that Capt. Phipps's "main or heavy ice" extended to the North Pole; but the further he went up the less "indication of it could be seen";

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and, at last, under the highest latitude reached, namely, 82° 40' 23" (at one time probably 45'), "so small was the ice around them, that they were obliged to halt for the night, at 2 A.M., on the 25th, being upon the only piece in sight, in any direction, on which they could venture to trust the boats while they rested. Such was the ice in latitude 82½°." So Wrangell and Anjou, the higher they went, the surer they were in finding, at last, the "wide immeasurable ocean" before them.

Dr. Kane's discovery is a full corroboration of what is indicated in the foregoing, namely, that, towards the North Pole, the temperature, animal and vegetable life, the open state of the sea, &c., do not uniformly, or regularly, decrease,—in short, that these features of the Arctic Regions depend much less on latitude than on the configuration, extent, and arrangement of land and water, and the oceanic currents. Thus, an extensive sea, exposed to the mighty currents running from the Siberian shores into the Atlantic, will, even under the Pole itself, be clearer of ice and more open,—it will possess a temperature higher, organic life more developed and abundant than the ice-bound, choked-up labyrinth of the chief scene of the Franklin search, 20° S. of the North Pole.

Thus, the only Polar sea accessible by vessels, and, undoubtedly, as fit for navigation as Baffin's Bay, remains, that beyond Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya. What significant lesson does Dr. Kane's adventurous voyage again convey? By almost superhuman efforts he only reached 82½° of latitude, while by the ship he could not possibly get further than 78½°,—whereas that same latitude, 82½°, in the Sea of Spitzbergen, has been reached again and again, in former as well as in recent times, with comparative ease. And nothing is more natural, for in the Spitzbergen-Sea ice navigation only commences about the same latitude where Dr. Kane's vessel came to a full stop, namely, between 78° and 79° N. latitude. This very summer several Norwegian whalers, among others the schooner *Aölus* from Bergen, have reached the latitude of 82° north of Spitzbergen, where they were most successful in the fishing. The *Aölus* became full in two or three days, and reached Bergen from that high latitude, 82°, in eleven days!

My views on Arctic Geography, first submitted to public notice in the *Athenæum* nearly four years ago, have not only not been controverted, but more and more corroborated by recent research; and I shall conclude by declaring my conviction, that through the Sea of Spitzbergen the North Pole will one day be reached, and that with much less danger and difficulty than has attended most Arctic voyages that have not got beyond the latitude of 75° N.

AUGUSTUS PETERMAN.

Nov. 10.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Turin, November.

THE ephemeral literature of Piedmont is almost entirely political. Few novelists, few *feuilletonists*, few essayists, take advantage of its free press; but great is the number of pamphleteers. The questions they handle are so intimately connected with the newspaper discussions of the day that their production are almost always beyond your province. I have just picked up, however, a little series—written in close imitation of M. Eugène de Mirecourt, and promising, it is true, far more than it performs—which may be considered worthy of a slight notice. M. Collet, who directs a journal published at Aix-les-Bains, uses the French language as his medium; but it is easy to see that where he is not provincial, he is Italian in his literary predilections. Beginning the biography of Camille Cavour, the Prime Minister of the Sardinian States, whom you will shortly have the advantage of seeing in London,—he endeavours at once to strike a high note:—"Like the fishermen of the Adriatic, we have thought good to inscribe on the poop of our frail skiff a glorious or beloved name—a talisman capable of protecting it against the waves of that stormy sea of criticism of which this day we undertake the navigation!" It is evident at once

that the intentions of the writer are adulatory, and that it would be dangerous to accept him implicitly as a guide. As we glance through his diminutive pages, however, we soon find that his love of scandal—which he tries to persuade himself is impartiality—will not allow him to suppress allusions to certain facts or calumnies, so that no one conversant with the period of which he treats can accuse him of deliberate suppression, whilst the real impression left on the mind of the hasty reader is probably false. On the other hand, when he comes to deal with persons whom he dislikes, that is, who are not friends of Count Cavour, he abuses them with virulence until he has nothing more to say in their disfavour, and then fills up the remainder of his space by giving them what he conceives to be full credit. Two remarkable men, Cavour and Brofferio,—the moderate leader and the democratic leader,—are among those treated in this strange style; and it will not be uninteresting to sketch their career briefly, making these *silhouettes* the basis, leaving out the panegyric and the ribaldry, and correcting and completing the information on the most important points.

The family of Count Cavour claims the equivocal honour of having sprung from an illegitimate amour of one of the Princes of the House of Savoy, and reckons among its glories that it was connected by marriage with the family of St. François de Sales. M. Collet, having recorded these facts, finds another in his notes more likely to be offensive to his hero, but he cannot suppress it, and his tone involuntarily becomes ironical:—"If we may believe an old chronicle, the blood of Savoy, royal and beatified, was singularly tainted in passing through the veins of a certain Abbé de Cavour, who, by his love of the monopoly of grain, collected on his head as much of popular hatred as he had heaped up broad pieces in his immense chests. This, however, is, by the by, and is not intended as an allusion."

The allusion made in this awkward-sprightly way is again repeated further on; and the writer, in spite of his endeavours to prove that he regards all accusations against Count Cavour as calumnies, informs the stranger that such accusations exist, without suggesting the true explanation, namely, that in countries only recently fitted with a constitution there always remain sufficient ignorance and prejudice to allow the disaffected portion of the public to believe that Ministers can put the product of taxation into their own pockets. It can scarcely surprise any one who knows the character of the old Italian nobility—probably removed for ever from power—to hear that such absurdities are principally rife amongst them, and that the collectors of the direct taxes were recently "in possession" of nearly eighty aristocratic mansions, the owners of which preferred paying expenses day after day to contributing, as they expressed it, to "the income of Count Cavour." It is almost needless to add, that the *Camera de' Conti* of Turin is quite as strict as the *Cour des Comptes* of Paris.

M. Collet, however, having had his joke, mentions that his hero was born at Turin in 1810,—that he gave early indications of being "a great man,"—that he was one of the king's pages, a position which he lost by being too witty and caustic of speech,—that his intelligence developed "in the crucible of study,"—that, on leaving the Academy, he became at once Lieutenant of Engineers, but that, being accused of liberalism, he soon resigned his military functions, and went to travel in England.

We have no space to fill up this meagre outline with the details which M. Collet omits, or to which he makes only tantalizing allusions. What business, indeed, have we to know "that Camille de Cavour enjoys among the fair sex a reputation of amiability which few possess"? A clear account of the conception and establishment of the *Risorgimento*, brought out under the united auspices of Balbo and Cavour, would have been far more acceptable. That journal, in its time very ably conducted, represented for some time the ideas of the Piedmontese moderates, who thought more of independence than of liberty. When the chief conductors, however, reached a prominent

public position they hastened to abandon the connexion,—for in this country there still remains a good deal of aristocratic contempt of "journalism," and a Minister would scarcely acknowledge that he ever wrote or "inspired" a leader or a paragraph.

Once, at any rate, in his life Count Cavour acted in concert with his present brilliant antagonist, the advocate Brofferio. Both were members of the deputation that waited on Count Avet, then Keeper of the Seals, to lay before him the wants and wishes of the Subalpine population, just before the proclamation of the Constitution by Carlo Alberto. From that time forward his talent, seconded by his immense wealth, enabled him to take a prominent part in all public affairs. He was captain in the National Guard and Deputy in 1848; and in 1850, says his awkward panegyrist, "he contrived to insinuate himself into the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, and Marine." Then he stepped on to the Ministry of Finance; and finally—imitating the cleverness of the statesman whom he regarded as "the most liberal minister in Europe," Lord John Russell—suddenly resigned, in order to be called back in 1852 to the guidance of public affairs as President of the Council. I do not intend, of course, to appreciate his political conduct; but must correct M. Collet when he says that M. de Cavour "imagined and created the Ministerial press." It can scarcely be asserted that there is any Ministerial press properly so called in Piedmont. The *Risorgimento*, a dangerous name, was soon changed into that of the *Piemonte*, and, as I have said, entirely abandoned by its illustrious founder. Its existence, even at present, is precarious and uncertain. As for the *Unione* and the *Opinione*, although the latter seeks almost always to represent the majority upon which the Minister leans, they are generally left to themselves, and sometimes make strange mistakes. On the other hand, the opposition journals, both clerical and liberal, are in constant communication with the heads of parties, so that there is far more unity in their political tone and perseverance in their polemics. I may add, that, although the press-laws are sufficiently stringent to prevent that full and free discussion which you consider a necessity in a constitutional country, a great latitude is taken in dealing with private character; and that M. Collet himself sometimes uses language so coarse, and deals in insinuations so improper, that though they might escape a jury in England, they would certainly not be tolerated by public opinion.

But it is in laudation that he shines. Note how he describes the personal appearance of his hero:—"The general exterior of Camille de Cavour is the perfect image of his internal organization: it reminds one at once of the aristocrat of the old school and of the modern *bourgeois*. Always dressed well, without any affectation of great care, middling in height, slightly tending to obesity, he possesses a frank open physiognomy, on which affability is depicted. His countenance, surmounted by a large forehead, much resembles, it is said, that of Napoleon the First,—is adorned by a mouth on which is stereotyped a smile almost always ironical, and denotes his great intelligence. His eyes, brilliant and keen, sheltered behind a pair of spectacles, form the complement of a whole which may be described as irreproachable, and which, enframed by a beard slightly red, and fair hair, agrees in every respect with an idea of the head of a statesman!"

This, reduced as far as possible into humble English from very doubtful French, is the way in which M. Collet endeavours to bring before us a stout, gentlemanly, light-haired, business-like and intelligent-looking man, forty-five years of age, of great wealth and much knowledge of the world, who has been all his life long so intent on political studies and public affairs that he has never had time or inclination to take upon himself the cares of a family; but who, as I have above hinted, is a welcome bachelor in all circles of beauty and fashion. The portrait, with all the additional touches relative to the Minister's eloquence, the terrible glance by which he confounds his ignorant antagonists in Parliament, leaves a very vague impression on the reader's mind,—certainly







a strict adherence to this metre is to be found in English literature.

D. F. M'CARTHY.

We have received a long letter in abuse of Mr. Herzen from a gentleman who gives his name; but in consideration for our Correspondent we mercifully interpose our own sobriety of judgment between his anger and the public. His complaint is that Mr. Herzen advertises a book under the title of 'My Exile in Siberia,' when in truth Mr. Herzen's exile was not into Siberia but only to a frontier town of that desolate region. But where does our angry Correspondent learn that Mr. Herzen chose his own title? In England, at least, the choice generally rests with publisher rather than with author. Does Mr. Herzen anywhere in his two volumes assert that he *was* in Siberia as an exile? If so,—and if the assertion be contrary to truth—as it may or may not be, for aught we know,—then he is undoubtedly to blame. At present, however, the only point raised by our Correspondent is against the choice of title—not against the substantial truth of Mr. Herzen's narrative. The complaint on this score, moreover, we must add, is rather late; inasmuch as Mr. Herzen's book has been advertised for the past three weeks as 'My Exile,'—a title which *does* accurately describe the volumes.

At Vienna there appear at present 59 journals,—of which 19 are dedicated to politics, 15 to the belles lettres, and 25 to the various departments of science.

The 'Œuvres posthumes de Lamennais' have just come out; they contain, among other things, a translation of the 'Divina Commedia,' in three volumes, with an Introduction "on Dante's life, doctrine, and morals." Some more volumes, containing "Mélanges politiques" and letters, are still expected.

M. Alphonse Grun, Keeper of the Records of the Empire, and formerly *redacteur-en-chef* of the *Moniteur*, has published a 'Vie publique de Montaigne,' which is highly recommended by the *Journal des Débats*. M. Grun proves that Montaigne never was Private Secretary to Catharine de Medici.

A Neapolitan Correspondent informs us, that a depository of coins has been lately found in Calabria Citra. About 250 specimens have already been brought to Naples. Amongst them are gold coins of Marciana, Matidia, Sabina, Faustina, and Trajan, Adrian, and Antoninus Pius, &c. "They have been purchased by a dealer, Guiseppe Lauria," writes our informant; "but, as the Government always claims the right of first purchase, I understand that the Intendente of Cosenza has been written to on the subject, and in the language of censure."

We learn from the *American Publishers' Circular* that it is proposed to establish, on a liberal foundation, a college at Oakland, on the opposite side of the bay of San Francisco in California. A charter has been obtained, and a board of trustees appointed. A school has been already opened, which, it is expected, will grow up into a college for the State. An application has been made to the Society for Promoting Collegiate and Theological Education at the West, and that Society has appropriated 500 dols. to the object.

Mr. A. Ashpitel has stated, in the course of a correspondence in the *Times*, some interesting facts respecting the present state of the famous 'Codex Vaticanus,'—from which it appears that Cardinal Mai at one time proposed to re-edit this important work. Mr. Ashpitel says:—

"About a year and a half ago, when in Rome, I had the honour of an introduction to the celebrated scholar the Cardinal Angelo Mai. In the course of conversation, he asked some questions as to the state of the 'Codex Alexandrinus' in the British Museum; and, on my remarking on my disappointment at not being able to see the 'Codex Vaticanus' at the great library, he explained that it was in consequence of his being engaged in preparing an edition of it himself, and that it was, of course obliged to be kept at his palace. The learned Cardinal proceeded to open a large strong chest, from which he took an elaborately-worked iron coffer, containing this most precious manuscript. Observing that the greater part that had been published was unsatisfactory and contradictory, he said that he was occupying his leisure by editing it page by page, line by line, letter by letter; that he had entertained serious thoughts of having a fount of type cast in *fac-simile*, in the same manner as Dr. Woide had for the 'Codex Alexandrinus,' but the difficulties were so great he had abandoned the idea. I then

suggested the making a *fac-simile* of the whole in lithography, page by page, as Mr. Arden had done for the 'Orations of Hyperides' he discovered at Thebes."

Can any of our Italian readers tell Mr. Ashpitel and ourselves how far Cardinal Mai proceeded with his task, and where the 'Codex Vaticanus' is now to be seen?

A work of the Venetian historian, Marino Sanudo Torvello, written in 1328, and referring to the history of the French and Venetian supremacy in Greece during the thirteenth century, has been discovered in the library of San Marco at Venice by Dr. Karl Hopf, of the University of Bonn. The work, it is asserted by the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, contains the most interesting details about Mediaeval Greece, and is likely to be published in the 'Collection de Documents Inédits,' Dr. Hopf having entered for that purpose into negotiations with the French Ministry for Public Instruction.

M. Arsène Loïn, Keeper of the Records in the City of Mons, has discovered in the office intrusted to his care a considerable number of documents respecting the Inquisition in the Netherlands, during the reigns of Charles the Fifth and Philip the Second. These documents will be printed in the Bulletin of the Historical Class of the Royal Belgian Academy.

A paragraph which we last week quoted from the *Daily News*, on a proposed award of diplomas of honour by the Schiller Union to such native and foreign writers as are judged to have done service to the poet's memory, admits, it would seem, of some amendment. The following corrections are made on the authority of Mr. Freiligrath, the eminent German poet:—"The fiftieth anniversary of Schiller's death-day was celebrated by the Union (9th May, 1855,) by sending out diplomas of honour,—a fact which I happen to know most precisely, as I was honoured myself by one of the diplomas in question. It appears, thus, that the *Daily News* alluded to a past event as to one which was still to take place. Or, perhaps, it was proposed by the Union to celebrate also the 10th of this month, Schiller's birth-day, by sending out fresh diplomas. In this case I have only to say, that the 10th of November, 1855, is by no means the fiftieth, but the ninety-sixth anniversary of Schiller's birthday. Schiller was born in the birth-year of Robert Burns, 1759."

One of the earliest Exhibitions of a mixed character,—bringing together into one collection, pictures, statues, produce, books, flowers, antiquities, machinery, domestic articles, philosophical instruments,—was held in Manchester in the rooms and for the profit of the Mechanics' Institution in that city. The success was great. The example was soon followed. We do not know how much of the impulse towards such gatherings, now so fashionable, and assuming such grand proportions, was communicated by that success; but we cannot doubt that many minds were stirred, and many prejudices overcome, by that display of science, art and industry. Our memories are recalled to that experiment by a note from the Secretary of the Institution, asking our attention to the scheme of a new Exhibition of the same kind, and on a larger scale, with which it is proposed to open the new home of the Institution. For the purposes of this Exhibition, the Directors make an appeal to such persons as possess objects of Art and *virtù*—interesting antiquities, instruments, and other things suitable for such a gathering as they propose. The appeal, we learn, has met with a warm response in Lancashire; but the appeal is general, and the Directors hope to be favoured with much valuable assistance from all parts of the country.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.—The GREAT VICTORY at SEBASTOPOL is now added to the DIORAMA of the "EVENTS of the WAR," including the Capture of the Malakoff, Attack on the Redan, Destruction of the Shipping, and Burning of Sebastopol. The Lecture by Mr. Stoecker. Daily at Three and Eight.—Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—UNCEASING NOVELTIES! LECTURE by J. H. PEPPER, Esq., on CHEMISTRY, POTTERY, and the New METAL, ALUMINIUM. NEW DISCOVERIES IN THE "EVENTS of the WAR," including the Capture of the Malakoff, Attack on the Redan, Destruction of the Shipping, and Burning of Sebastopol. The Lecture by Mr. Stoecker. Daily at Three and Eight.—Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s.

## SCIENTIFIC

### SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Nov. 15.—J. P. Collier, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The certificates of several candidates were read.—The Rev. Thomas Hugo exhibited a two-looped bronzed celt, found at Ballincollig, near Cork, last year. Mr. F. Ouvry, treasurer, exhibited a penny of Offa, King of Mercia, found at Mentmore, Bucks. It has been presented by the Rev. J. Ouvry North, vicar of Mentmore, to the British Museum.—Mr. B. Williams exhibited a number of leaden seals of the Roman period, a bronze fibula, and other objects found at Brough Castle, Westmoreland.—Mr. Franks exhibited drawings of several implements and weapons of bronze found at Arretton, in the Isle of Wight. Some of these objects, of which Mr. Franks read a description, are preserved in the British Museum; but a portion has been lost sight of since they were exhibited by Mr. Peter Collinson at the commencement of the last century.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—Nov. 14.—Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart., V.P., in the chair.—Mr. Hogg, in presenting a copy of Dr. Dietrich's 'Zivei Sidonische Inschriften,' recently published, gave a *visa voce* résumé of what has been done in America, in Germany, in France, and by Dr. Benisch in England, with regard to the interpretation of the ancient Phœnician inscription on the royal sarcophagus, found in January last at Sidon. From the former it appeared that the inscription related to the King of the Sidonians, named Ashmonezer; but by the last he is called Ashmoneid. The inscription dates from the fourteenth year of that king (Melek), and prohibits in strong terms any one from opening the sarcophagus, or from disturbing the remains deposited in it. It expressly says there was no treasure placed therein, and it mentions a temple of Baal, and another of Ashtaroth. The name of Amashtoreth, the queen and priestess of Ashtaroth, is likewise recorded in it. The Duc de Luynes has been able to procure this noble sarcophagus itself, and has presented it to the French Government for the Museum of the Louvre.—Mr. Birch read a letter from George Dennis, Esq., dated George Inn, Demerara, on some rude representations of what would seem to be the characters of a language, which had been found lately in that province.—The Rev. Josias Leslie Porter, of Damascus, was elected a Member of the Society.

STATISTICAL.—Nov. 19.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby, President, in the chair.—Messrs. J. Broun and J. J. Gosset were elected Fellows.—Mr. Leone Levi read a 'Résumé of the Second Session of the International Statistical Congress, held at Paris, in September, 1855.' He first noticed the increased attention paid to statistical science of late years. The first International Congress was held at Brussels in 1853, the second at Paris in September last. It was attended by statisticians from 29 States:—viz., Great Britain and Ireland, Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Frankfurt, Greece, Hamburg, Hanover, Hesse, Mecklenburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Parma, Peru, Portugal, Prussia, Sardinia, Saxony, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tuscany, the Two Sicilies, the United States, and Wurtemberg. The Congress was sub-divided into four sections,—the first to consider the formation of a nosological table, and the statistics of insanity, epidemics, and accidents,—the second to consider the statistics of agriculture, ways of communication, and of foreign commerce,—the third to consider the statistics of civil justice, of crimes and punishments, and of penitentiary establishments,—and the fourth to consider the statistics of provident institutions, and of large cities. The Congress was of opinion that in each country a Statistical Board should be formed, comprising the heads of the different departments of the State, and others eminent for their statistical attainments, so that the statistics of the country should be published on a uniform plan. The Congress agreed to a system of nomenclature of diseases, and prepared a Vocabulary of the causes of deaths, in Latin,

English, French, German, Italian, and Swedish. The Congress recommends the collection of agricultural statistics by salaried agents, and lay much stress on the necessity of correct maps. The months of May and June for grain, and December for cattle, are recommended to inquirers. The returns of criminal statistics in the United Kingdom, had, of late, gradually deteriorated. Information is wanted on the working of police courts in towns, and of Justices of peace in the rural districts. In respect of the statistics of great cities, it was recommended that the Statistical Society should make inquiries into the moral and physical state of the inhabitants of this metropolis. The Congress indicated the following subjects as deserving of investigation at their next meeting:—The Financial Affairs of various countries, the state of Public Instruction, and the Statistics of Articles of Food. They also recommend the assimilation of the Monies, Weights, and Measures of different countries. The Members of the French Statistical Commission are to fix the place of meeting in 1857. A discussion took place on the subject, during which a wish was expressed by many speakers that the next Meeting of the Congress should be held in London.

**ENTOMOLOGICAL.**—Nov. 5.—John Curtis, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. Winter sent for exhibition a specimen of *Phlogophora empyrea*, a Noctua new to Britain,—also, a specimen of *Ennomos Almaria*, of which species only one British specimen was hitherto known, and some extraordinary varieties of *Agrotis segetum* and *A. exclamatoria*, all taken recently near Brighton.—Mr. Newman exhibited a male specimen of *Entometa obliqua*, reared from a sack-formed cocoon brought from Australia by Mr. Oxley, the insect having passed fifteen months in the pupa state. He also read some notes, 'On a Minute Species of *Acarus*, of the genus *Tetranychus*,' communicated by Dr. Milner Barry, of Tonbridge Wells.—Mr. Stevens exhibited a new British Tortrix, recently taken by him near Havant,—also, *Goniadoma auroguttella*, from the Isle of Wight, and a specimen of *Dictyopteryx Uginosana*, from Ely, Cambs, of which only two specimens were hitherto known, taken at Whittlesea Mere many years since.—Mr. Westwood exhibited, on behalf of Prof. Henslow, a specimen of *Valerius dilutatus*, found in a hive of the honey-bee, and also the singular net-work cocoons of *Hypera runcicis*.—Mr. Foxcroft brought for exhibition a large collection of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, taken by him, during the past season, in Scotland.—Mr. Stevens stated, that he had found a preparation of naphtha, manufactured, at Liverpool, for the purpose of destroying vermin on shipboard, &c., very useful for cleansing greasy insects, and exhibited some which he had very successfully treated.—Dr. Power exhibited specimens of *Notiophilus rufipes*, which hitherto rare beetle he had lately taken near Croydon, Gravesend, and Uxbridge.—The Rev. Hamlet Clark exhibited a new species of *Hydroporus*, from the collection of Mr. Waterhouse.—The President communicated some notes, by Mr. Halliday, 'On *Cynips lignicola*,' which he had bred from oak galls found at Glanville's Wootton.

**INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.**—Nov. 20.—James Simpson, Esq., President, in the chair.—Discussion on Mr. Herbert's paper 'On the Construction of Buoys, Beacons, and other Stationary Floating Bodies.'—It was generally admitted, that most favourable reports had been received relative to the buoys; they were moored in extremely exposed situations, where they had proved their superiority, by being always visible, and deviating but slightly from the perpendicular, at times when buoys of the old form were almost entirely submerged, and were only visible at intervals, in a horizontal position, in the trough of the sea. There was no reason why a larger class of beacons on the same principle should not be equally successful, and it was probable that it might be extended to supporting floating lights. The latter, however, demanded experiment.—Attention was directed to a new kind of Reflector for Lights; it was composed of silvered porcelain, and appeared to possess a very brilliant polish,

which was stated to be indestructible. Hitherto reflectors of small sizes only had been produced, but by means now adopted it was expected that they could be made as large as twenty-one inches in diameter over the mouth. If this manufacture was brought to the perfection that was anticipated, a great economy would result, as the silvered copper reflectors at present used were very expensive originally, were liable to oxidation, and were frequently injured, by the care of the attendants, in rubbing them to keep the reflecting surfaces bright.—After the meeting, Mr. Lavanchy exhibited, in the library, a model of an expanding portable bridge of his invention. The system had been tried at Paris, where a bridge on this principle, fixed upon a boat in the canal, had been used for permitting the passage of troops; the boat yielded considerably to the weight of the men brought upon it, but the bridge remained stiff, and the commanding officer had reported well of its properties. The principle was, that of a number of strips of iron or wood, pinned together transversely at such points as that they should form a series of equilateral parallelograms, the extension being obtained by the motion upon the connecting pins, somewhat on the principle of what was commonly called "lazy-tongs." A bridge of this construction could be made very light, for any moderate span, and be conveyed upon a boat to be projected to both banks of a stream; be used for the centre, or any portion of a long floating bridge of boats; be carried upon a pair of wheels with a regiment, or used for numerous civil purposes, and its construction was stated not to be at all expensive.

The Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers have awarded the following premiums:—Telford Medals to Mr. James Barton, for his paper 'On the Economic Distribution of Material in the Sides, or Vertical Portion, of Wrought Iron Beams,'—to Mr. E. E. Allen, for his paper 'On Steam and Sailing Colliers, and the various Modes of Ballasting,'—to Mr. R. A. Robinson, for his paper 'On the Application of the Screw Propeller, to the larger class of Sailing Vessels,'—and to Mr. J. Phillips, for his 'Description of the Iron Roof, in one span, over the Joint Railway Station, Birmingham.' Council Premiums of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to Mr. J. Leslie, for his paper 'On the Flow of Water through Pipes and Orifices,'—to Mr. P. W. Barlow, for his paper 'On some peculiar features of the Water-bearing Strata of the London Basin,'—to Mr. J. Brunless, for his 'Description of the Sea Embankments across the Estuaries Kent and Leven, in Morecambe Bay, for the Ulverstone and Lancaster Railway,'—to Mr. F. Braithwaite, for his paper 'On the Infiltration of Salt Water to the Springs of Wells under London and Liverpool,'—to Mr. G. J. Munday, for his 'Description of the Cofferdams used in laying the lines of Water-Pipes, from Richmond to Twickenham, across the Thames,'—and to Mr. L. E. Fletcher, for his 'Description of the Landore Viaduct, on the South Wales Railway.'

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—Nov. 21.—The Rev. James Booth, LL.D., Chairman of Council, in the chair.—In accordance with the usual custom, the Chairman proceeded to read an inaugural address.—The following prizes were awarded by the Society:—To C. Atherton, Chief Engineer of Her Majesty's Dockyard, Woolwich, for his paper 'On the Capability for Mercantile Transport Service of Steamships,' the Silver Medal;—to Col. A. Cotton, late Chief Engineer, Madras, for his paper 'On Public Works in India, especially with reference to Irrigation and Communications,' and for his persevering and continued advocacy of their extension, the Silver Medal;—to J. B. Lawes, for his paper 'On the Sewage of London,' the Silver Medal;—to J. Forbes Royle, M.D., for his paper of last session 'On Indian Fibres fit for Textile Fabrics, or for Rope and Paper-making,' the Silver Medal;—to C. Sanderson, for his paper 'On the Manufacture of Steel, as carried on in this and other Countries,' being an essay sent in competition for a premium offered in the Society's prize list, the Silver Medal;—to P. L. Simmonds, for his paper 'On some Undeveloped and Unappreciated Articles

of Raw Produce from different parts of the World,' the Silver Medal.—The Council have also awarded the following premiums for articles exhibited in the Seventh Annual Exhibition of Inventions, or submitted for the consideration of the Society's Committees:—To Felix Abate, of Naples, for Nature Printing from Wooden Blocks and Rollers, the Silver Medal;—to Field & Co., of Birmingham, for the production of Microscopes to be sold to the public at the respective prices of 10s. 6d. and 3l. 3s., sent in competition for the special premium offered by the Council, the Silver Medal;—to A. P. How, for his Engine-room Telegraph, the Bronze Medal;—to Herbert Mackworth, Government Inspector of Mines, for his instrument called *Metra*, intended for the use of mining and other engineers, for geologists, scientific travellers, &c., the Bronze Medal;—to Messrs. W. Muir & Co., Manchester, for their improved Grindstones, the Bronze Medal;—to F. H. Wenham, for an improved Letter Lock, which prevents the Combinations being ascertained by any other means than by working out the entire system of changes, sent in competition for the premium offered in the Society's prize list, the Bronze Medal.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** Institute of Actuaries, 7.—'On the Valuation of Property held in Reversion, and for Life, and on the due Apportionment of it, when so held, between the Tenant for Life and the Remainder Man,' by Mr. Jellicoe.  
—Royal Academy, 8.—'Anatomy,' by Prof. Farbridge.  
—Geographical, 8.—'Memoir on the Map of Damascus, Hauran, and the Mountains of Lebanon, constructed from Personal Survey,' by Rev. J. L. Porter.—'Reports respecting Central Africa, as collected in Mambura and the East Coast, with a new Map of the Country,' by Rev. J. Erhardt.  
**Tues.** Meteorological, 7.—'General and Council,'—'On the Wind Charts published by the Board of Trade,' by Capt. FitzRoy.  
—Civil Engineers, 8.—'On the Application of Valve Springs to the Safety-Valves of Locomotive Boilers,' by Mr. Baillie.  
—Zoological, 8.—Scientific.—'On the New Species of Birds collected by Mr. Adams during the Exploring Voyage of Capt. Collinson,' by Mr. Gray.—'On the Animal of *Panopæa Aldrovandi*,' by Mr. Woodward.  
**Wed.** Society of Arts, 8.—'On the Gums and Resins of Commerce,' by Mr. Simmonds.  
—Royal Society of Literature, 8.  
—British Archaeological, 8.—'On Etruscan Tombs,' by Sir G. Wilkinson.—'On the Opening of a Barrow in the Isle of Wight,' by Sir C. Fellows.—'On an Incised Slab in Shalfleet Church,' by Mr. Planché.  
—Microscopical, 8.  
**Thurs.** Antiquaries, 8.  
—Botanical, 8.—Anniversary.  
**Fri.** Royal, 4.—Anniversary.  
**Sat.** Asiatic, 2.

#### FINE ARTS

*A Journey through the Exhibition of Fine Arts—(Voyage à travers l'Exposition des Beaux Arts, Peinture et Sculpture).* By Edmond About. Paris, Hachette & Co.

FRENCH critics have been busy with the five thousand works of Art now gathered together in a frail building on the banks of the Seine. Théophile Gautier, Maxime Decamp, the author of the work before us, and other writers of less note, have been able to compare foreign schools with that of France, and, conscientiously, we have no doubt, to give native artists the best of all their comparisons. Our neighbours have so thoroughly made up their minds to be considered leaders in every department of the Fine Arts that they cannot conceive a modern school superior in any respect to theirs. Taking their supremacy for granted, they proceed to dictate verdicts from which it is temerity of the most exaggerated kind to appeal. Indeed, no room is left for appeal—since there exists no court superior to theirs. They could afford to be more gracious. Thus every French critic who has been epigrammatic, this season, on the Universal Exhibition of Fine Arts, has started on his brilliant travels with a flourish about Paris as the mother and the nurse of modern Art, all other countries being babies. From this point he has generally wandered among those hasty generalizations so dear to the *feuilletoniste*:—laments over the fall of Italian Art; sarcasms on the elements Belgium has borrowed from France; the frequent application of the word "*bizarre*" to the British School, and the elevation of Sir George Hayter to the leadership of English artists; together with squibs fired at Cornelius, Ingres, Courbet, and the Pre-Raphaelites,—these things have formed the capital of French Art-critics, throughout the season which is about to close. Nor have the comic journals



of our neighbours been idle. Only a few days since the *Journal pour Rire* had a drawing of a gentleman frozen to death in Ingres' saloon, with attendants bearing away the remains of the unfortunate visitor. Now M. About, although widely known as an elegant and a humorous writer, has not yet, so far as we know, made a position as an Art critic. His 'Journey through the Exhibition' is not likely to establish him as an authority; since it is simply the very lively, very clever, and picturesque work of a literary man with a taste for Art. No man with the power which M. About has displayed in 'Tolla' could fail to write attractive articles,—given, a theme like that of the Universal Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture. Having wandered, with a note-book, along the galleries in which the poetic ideas, the good aspirations, the playful fancies, and the tragic conceptions of all Europe are massed upon the walls,—having been able to contrast Landseer with Stevens and Rosa Bonheur, MacIise with Ingres and Cornelius, Meissonnier with Mulready, Grant and Mrs. Carpenter with Madrazo and Mdlle. Sophie Fredo,—having been able to gather up quaint suggestions at every turn, any man gifted with a moderate faculty of pen-painting, must, out of these rich materials, make, at the very lowest estimate, a readable book. M. About has done more,—he has produced a series of chapters sprinkled with quaint sayings, and happily-turned figures of speech, conveying criticisms that are evidently those of a graceful, but not of a prepared mind. He has loved Art,—this is apparent in every line of his book; but he has not studied Art. His affections—and his prejudices born of his affections—speak, and speak alone. He is only sound where the absurdities he attacks are patent to the world. He lays down no rules of the criticism by which he frames his estimates, simply because he has no clear code in his possession. Still, his testimony on the result of the appearance of foreign artists in France is valuable, as affording some clue to the opinions entertained by the thinking portion of our neighbours, not tied by the stern lessons of dogmatic professors to one school or the other. Our readers will, perhaps, be more interested in M. About's estimate of the British School than in his tilts with the painters of Italy, Prussia, and Austria. We shall, therefore, string together some of his verdicts, and his quaint condemnations.

M. About starts well. Dedicating his book to his friend Gustave Doré,—the only artist who has illustrated Rabelais, and the young painter who is husbanding his strength, if rumour speak truth, for a great future,—he at once proceeds to present the English nation to his readers, as proving that industry and commerce are the true friends and not the mortal foes of the Fine Arts.—

We are reminded that every sculptor who folds his arms, waiting for a commission,—every artist who vainly occupies part of his colourman's shop—now,—all who run after Fame unsuccessfully,—declare unanimously that their failure is the result of the commercial spirit of the age. Instead of attributing their want of success to their want of talent, they prefer to cast invectives at the shops in their street, at the nearest factory, at the railway that carries them into the country, and at the positive ideas of their contemporaries. According to these gentlemen, the present is a *bourgeois* century—they would apply a more offensive epithet to it if they could find one. It would be, however, very easy to refute this prejudice by a list of the commercial republics—of Greece, Italy, and the Low Countries. Art never had more magnificent patrons than the rich merchants of Athens, of Venice, and of Antwerp. But, without going thus far back, for example, I will content myself by citing the names of our very eyes and in very hand—the Catalogue of the English Exhibition. Our very industrious neighbours, our very commercial allies, our very positive friends, have a method sufficiently curious of encouraging artists,—they buy their works. With some rare exceptions, all the paintings, all the sculpture, and all the drawings which England has exhibited in Paris belong to the collectors; and it is asserted that they pay for the Channel, these little bits of furniture are purchased at the rate of 25,000 and 50,000 francs each. Let anybody despise commerce after this. Every country has its customs. Look at the Catalogue! In France, Mr.—, an artist of talent, a first medal in 1810, a second medal in 1820, a first medal in 1830, and the cross in 1840. In Germany, when an artist becomes known, he is a member of several Academies, knight of many Orders, and sometimes councillor. The ultimate end of Art is the Red Eagle of the third class, with the knot. There a good painter is not always rich, but he is always decorated; he may walk in clouds, but not ribands. Decorations are the fruit which

all cultivated Germans bear. It is otherwise in England. English artists care little for these little watered ribands, which prove that a man of forty has already behaved himself. On the other hand, they cannot bear to be deceived. The public serves them accordingly to their wishes, and pays them in the coinage they prefer. They receive bank-notes instead of "*mentions honorables*,"—and guineas instead of medals. There are several millionnaires among the English artists who have sent their works to Paris. I might easily mention their names, but I shall carefully abstain; such an enumeration would point out their works to the severity of critics, and to the admiration of Cockney artists. The talent of English artists on a level with the English fortunes?—and is there not a little patriotism in this metallic enthusiasm which they exhibit in their own country? This is a question which it would have been difficult to solve last year. English artists are not accustomed, like the Belgians, to send their works to our Exhibitions. We know their paintings by the copies of engravings only. Now the graver gives us some of the composition and the drawing;—it can hardly indicate the colour. A graceful idea and correct drawing suffice to produce an admirable vignette; something more is wanted to make a painting. Those who, on the faith of the graver, have conceived a higher opinion of English painting, will experience a slight sense of deception on entering the gallery devoted to the works of British artists. The first impression is weak. The eye, while it is not attracted by the dominating work, is shocked by a certain number of accessory paintings, before it discovers a composition, exact in drawing, and reproducible in execution. After a second examination, the visitor is convinced that English artists have infinite *esprit*, knowledge and skill. Happy days are abundant, I might almost say superabundant;—the processes of the calling are put into practice with prodigious tact;—if these two qualities sufficed to make a painter, the English school would be the first in the universe. But in the Arts there is something beyond skill—*esprit*—it is nature. There is something superabundant in the *esprit* of Sterne and the skill of Goldsmith;—the genius of Shakspeare or of Byron? The English school has several Goldsmiths, and perhaps half a Sterne;—it wants nothing—save genius.

half a Sterne—it wants nothing—save genius. These general remarks, the value of which we leave the reader to estimate, preface M. About's sparkling criticisms on our prominent artists. He places them, apparently, according to the size of their productions. Thus, Messrs. Armitage, Pickersgill, and Lucy, form the first trio, and are served up, we should say, chiefly for the amusement of our allies. Our neighbours are informed that in the picture of 'Cromwell,' by Mr. Lucy, the leather boots are well painted, but the rest of the Protector's person is so trivial that, without the aid of the Catalogue, it would be impossible to say whether he is meditating or digesting. There is a hundred times more grandeur in the 'Belshazzar's Feast,' by Martin. From these painters there is an easy skip, past Mr. Poole's 'Job,' to 'Sir Georges Hayter's' 'Trial of Lord William Russell.' We are told that this picture represents a political and domestic drama, "little known in history." Perhaps M. Guizot's 'Love in Marriage' may extend the story to the reading public of Great Britain! The picture has pleased M. About. According to the critic, the Judges in their robes are admirably painted;—the figures of this haughty and indifferent-paid Areopagus are frightfully true. The draperies are arranged by the hand of a master, and the light which glows upon the wall has the finest imaginable effect. Lord William Russell carries in his expression that simple, quiet, almost common-place intrepidity which is a privilege of the English nation. M. About holds that there is always a sound of trumpets to heroism of Frenchmen,—and that they have never known how to triumph like Hampden or to fall like Russell. From Hayter, M. About skips forward to Mr. Grant's well-known 'Ascot Meet,'—before the red-coats of which he declares that the science of Painting has never more happily surmounted a more insurmountable difficulty. Mr. Mulready, who on the same authority, is nearly eighty years of age, is in a position to supply Great Britain with little pictures, delicately conceived and executed with great taste and tact. His talent, which does without inspiration, has resisted the action of age:—his hand is firm and his drawing correct. The habit of taking care and of cultivating precision is one of those which are never lost. 'The Wolf and the Lamb' is simply a little masterpiece. Mr. Mulready loves these innocent pictures, which give but little fatigue to the artist, and light emotions to the spectator. He borrows eagerly from Goldsmith; the affinity between the painter and the writer is evident. But then the artist's colour is below mediocrity.

M. About has been told that Mulready's colouring was better in his early days,—so, he believed, was Ingres'. It appears that artists lose their colour as they get old—like hair! And then again, in the four pictures upon the walls, he has painted only crimson people. Let us allow that he has chosen his models among a people celebrated for health, but let the line be drawn between health and apoplexy. He will not give any of the personages represented a day to live, unless they are bled instantly! Let Dr. Sangrado be fetched!—there is not a moment to lose! To complete the description of Mr. Mulready, M. About informs his countrymen that his colouring can be called harmonious only when placed in juxtaposition with that of Mr. Macclise. We are informed, hereupon, that this artist enjoys a wide-spread reputation in England,—his pictures being as popular as the water-colour drawings of Mr. Lewis and the waxwork of Madame Tussaud! But Mr. Macclise has "*esprit*," and so has Mr. Webster, with his children fed upon raw meat; and it is this *esprit* which destroys Art in England. Between Mr. Webster and Mr. Goodall there lies only the science of drawing. Mr. Goodall does not draw his figures, he indicates them. His 'Ball for the Widow's Benefit' is a pretty composition, tolerable in colour, but weakly drawn. Mr. Egg's picture of 'Peter the Great meeting Catherine for the First Time' is not, according to the vague expression of the critic, "without a certain grandeur." Mr. Leslie's 'Uncle Toby and the Widow Wadman' is a delicious page torn from 'Tristram Shandy.' In Mr. Frith's 'Pope and Lady Montague' M. About sees only a laughing woman, bent upon showing her teeth and her wit at the same time. Sir E. Landseer's animals have the same defect as the men painted by his brother artists;—they have too much "*esprit*." But then M. About cuts the matter short by a declaration that it is only in France and Belgium that the way to paint animals is known. From Landseer, the critic advances boldly to Mr. Paton's 'Oberon and Titania.' It is declared to be a most curious picture, because it displays the labour of a clever man over a fanciful idea. The dispute between the king and queen of the fairies is a quarrel in good society, accompanied by academic gestures. It is easy to see, "by the movement of the lips," that the quarrel is being carried on in English. This refinement of observation is probably intended to show that nothing escapes M. About. Possibly many persons may think that he catches, now and then, intentions or tints which he himself has added to the artist's work. Still, he holds that Mr. Paton has accomplished a feat of strength in crowding so many figures within so confined a space. The treatment of the nude is described as Puritanic; and the fairies as appearing to say to one another, "Be on your best behaviour." The dream of Shakspeare, thus toned down and cooled, gives M. About the effect of a glass of iced punch!

iced punch!

From this canvas M. About wanders about awhile reflecting on the advantages of climate English artists enjoy for the study of colour,—a heavy, sombre sky being an excellent master. It was in the salt fogs of Venice, and under the heavy sky of Holland, that men guessed for the first time that there was beauty in the contrasts of light and shade. A Rembrandt would be a hieroglyph upon canvas to a native of Cairo, of Athens, or of Beyrout. Under a cloudless sky, in a pure and dry air, only lines are seen. England, however, according to our critic, has her colourists. He counts them on his fingers:—Mr. Knight, Sir C. L. Eastlake, Mr. Poole, Mr. Danby. These, we are informed, are four artists who paint with a brush, and not with a nail. Yet Eastlake, we are assured, has painted an historical subject only to prove that historical painting cannot take root in England. Mr. Hook's 'Venice of our Dreams' is less a picture than the "superposition of two pictures bound together by an arm and a rose." Here M. About's precise meaning, it must be confessed, is clouded. There is, however, no mistake as to the nature of his verdicts when he approaches the Pre-Raphaelites, whose popularity is, to him, a proof of the little favour which colour enjoys in England. From this point of the Exhibition,



the critic skips successively before the portraits painted by Sir J. Watson Gordon, Mrs. Carpenter, Mr. Boxall, and Mr. Grant. He praises them all; but he holds Mr. Grant up as the most direct inheritor of the qualities and defects of Lawrence.

These citations from M. About's pages will give the reader an idea of the kind of criticism with which they abound. He has not a good word even for our landscape-painters. We are clever at laying out parks and landscape gardens, but less skilful in putting them upon canvas. Mr. Linnell is excepted from this condemnation, and praised as a true landscape-painter and a warm colourist. Before leaving the English gallery, to enjoy a *batue* in those of Spain, Italy, Holland, and Germany, M. About takes care to inform his countrymen that "English Art, such as it is, enjoys an immense success throughout the United Kingdom. Its products are sought for, it raises its price, it cannot keep pace with the demand. The nation is insatiable, spending all her savings in the purchase of pictures. In England, paintings are, to those who buy them, the highest degree of luxury; and to those who produce them, the highest kind of industry." We leave our readers to judge how far this generalization is borne out by fact.

#### LANDSEER'S WORKS AT THE WINTER EXHIBITION.

It is not often that we are enabled to see united in a single collection almost the whole works of an artist's life. There is something that excites reflection in the retrospect; we are enabled to observe at once the green blade and the harvest, the seed and the fruit, and to trace the growth of a mind from its infancy to its complete development. We gauge its powers of invention, adaptation, composition, and fancy.

No unbiassed person can, we think, spend an hour in the examination of these works without feeling that Sir Edwin Landseer's success has been owing to his minute pourtrayal of animal life,—to a thorough mastery of the mechanical power of expression,—and not to the higher powers of imagination or creation. He gives us the exact curl and springiness of a hair, its colour and its light and shade. He could draw a hair on a blank sheet of paper, and one would know from what sort of dog it was taken,—it would be a story in itself. The dog, the horse, the deer, and the sheep are all his subjects; the monkey he knows much of, and the hawk is one of the vassals of his art. No one has given us better sketches of Highland life and scenery; he has painted successful portraits; and given us nearly every phase of sporting life, though more fond of deer-stalking than fox-hunting. Gifted with wonderful powers of depicting the passions and feelings of animals, to which he makes man a mere adjunct, he has become an aristocratic painter, not merely by his own excellence, but because he has delighted to illustrate the sports of the aristocrat, and to minister to a national taste. He has painted noblemen's dogs, and horses, and children, royal families and pet birds, and all with such a perfect mastery that has established him as one of the greatest animal painters of any age.

At nine years old young Landseer drew the heads of animals, not very well proportioned, but full of character; and no prophetic eye could see much indication of the great artist who was so many years after to depict the antlered monarchs wrestling on the mountain in the dawn. We lament that too often his paintings are copies of animals living a sort of genteel life, and fit society for any drawing-room; when, instead of a very respectable deer's skin and horns, we might have had the stormy dangers of the old hunting-field, or the poetry of the old forest life, with all that Jacques ever saw or Orlando achieved. We should like to have seen less cold precision, and more of the robust energy with which Rubens swept in his rolling painter in his great picture in the National Gallery.

Occasionally, it must be allowed, breaking from noble patrons and the demands of their vanity and caprice, the animal portrait-painter gives us scenes full of nature and perfect stories in themselves,—such as *The Challenge* and *The Sanctuary, Night and Morning*, the *Chief Mourner*. For real fancy and ingenious adaptation of nature, we may men-

tion the *Jack in Office* and *High Life and Low Life*. For portraits worked into scenes, *Miss Blanche Egerton* and *The Naughty Boy*. For grotesque humour, the monkey scenes; and as poems, *Peace and War*, the *Free Kirk* and the *Drovers' Departure*.

The red deer Sir Edwin Landseer has depicted in every attitude, proud, sturdily, his crown of antlers branching on his head, pawing the flinty summit of the pass some bright summer morning, or knee deep in the thick crusted snow of winter, bellowing out his warnings to his mates beside the snow-mantled pine and in the lone valley; or again, dripping and dank, in the sanctuary, wading through the rushes to the island in the lake. What pathos there is (and Sir E. Landseer is more vigorous than pathetic generally) in the dead doe with the dappled fawn pulling at its shrunken teat, and in the old blind pensioner's dog, leaning, old and sullen, against its dead master's bedding.

For such made-up scenes as *Bolton Abbey*, with its shopful of produce, or for such a scene as *Horses at the Fountain*, we do not care much, as far as any attempt at story goes, or as far as the mere dummy figures of theatrical retainers that prove one scene to be an abbey, and the other that of a baron's court-yard. The figures in the latter picture are as full of death as the animals are full of life, and the white horse literally blazes in the centre against its black fellow and the dark archway.

In Highland scenes Sir Edwin stands unrivalled. Wilkie first gave us glimpses of humour in his Lowland interiors; but Sir Edwin has shown us Highland cottages, with their inmates more idealized than Wilkie could have given them. We have the drover, the cow-laddie, and the stalker and the shepherd, and the winsome maiden feeding the fawns and minding the kye. He shows us the torrent and the lake, the mountain and the moor. We may re-read Scott by the light of his works.

The same versatile painter gives us peeps into the Highland palace. We see the Queen's pet dogs, Dash, Hector, and Nero,—see the Prince deer-stalking, or the Queen, like any common mother, playing with her children. This painting for the Court has been a great cause of Sir Edwin Landseer's popularity.

Considering that animal painters are apt to run into repetition, like Snyders with his unceasing boar-hunts, and Wouvermans, with his white horse, dear to the memory of auctioneers, we must allow Sir Edwin the merit of versatility. He has given us the wiry Scotch terrier, with his air of shrewd cunning and pluck; the sullen bull-dog, of essentially plebeian habits; the melancholy stag-hound; the aristocratic setter; the faithful Newfoundland; with such perfection of touch and expression, that we seem to identify every hair that shades their eyes as old friends. We can see that it is silky, springy, or bristly, and know its colour even in an engraving. There are horses, too, enough to mount a cavalry regiment, roan, bay, flea-bitten, and white; broad haunches, full eyes, and clean feet; every mark of blood strongly given, and every characteristic of age and climate expressed to the full.

Sir Edwin has done, we will not say his best, but certainly the larger portion of his life's work; and may, therefore, be fairly considered as having developed the chief characteristics of his mind. He has studied every motion, every momentary grace of every animal he has taken in hand, and has given us these facts with wonderful knowledge and truth. Higher things might have been done, but not by a painter who took the animal's part, and thought the animal the starting point of creation,—as the object of the world,—as more worthy of study than man. This view of Art is the necessity of a strong instinct like Sir Edwin's, but is still to the general thinker a phenomenon.

It is true that Sir Edwin has been a modern *Æsop*—making dogs' mouths utter strange morals, and hinting much in the grin of an ape. His deer are as dignified as Highland chieftains, and far less proud,—his fawns have the airy grace of women,—his dogs are pugnacious, restless, and selfish boys,—his monkeys amusing, pert, and voluble as London gamins.

He has given us the poetry of the stable and the

kennel. Henceforward we look at dogs with a suspicion that they may know more than they care to say. There is much meaning in the large eye of the horse; and the other has a physiognomy in which many passions are concentrated.

Sir Edwin has spoken well for the animals, and done more for them than even Mr. Martin of Galway's Bill. We have a greater respect for their fidelity and intelligence since he painted them, and are more apt to associate them with their individual scenery.

Some of the artist's works, such as the 'Jack in Office,' are really satires,—better, indeed, than many thrown into writing, and none the worse for being more quickly understood. Others startle us by bringing before our eyes curious parallelisms of the human and animal kingdom,—things that seem in them rather imitations and parodies of our doings than mere coincidences.

Taking Sir Edwin for what he has done, and not for what he has not done, we cannot but feel that he is a great painter, and certain of a lasting fame.

**FINE-ART GOSSIP.**—The official lists of artists to whom medals and honourable mentions have been awarded by the French Commission differ in some respects from those published in the journals. In the lists of our own countrymen, we find the name of Mr. C. Stanfield struck out of the first class,—that of Mr. Taylor out of the second,—and out of the class of "honourable mention," Messrs. Warren, Wehnert, Wilson, Holland, Wells. In this latter order we find one insertion—the name of M. Grunure, the engraver. The object—the reason for these changes we are at a loss to divine. We will only say, that they tend to strengthen still further the impression, pretty widely spread in England, that the adjudication has been a mere cabinet comedy. A Correspondent thus comments on the proceedings:—

It is impossible to know, at least I have found it so, who are the persons that have been honoured by the Emperor with the ribbon of the Legion of Honour. At the tail of the list of men so distinguished,—men of science, engineers, inventors, manufacturers,—appear the names of four artists; and it is curious, that the two really distinguished by the Jurors with the "Grandes Médailles d'Honneur"—Landseer and Barry—are not even mentioned; while Gibson (who was placed in the second or third class by the Jurors), and two painters, who, in sporting phrase, were "nowhere," are selected for decoration. Far be it from me to doubt of or question the deserts of the four selected artists; I merely direct attention to the absurd no-principle on which the awards have been made, or on which these honours have been awarded.

The anger and dismay of the public are taking various forms of expression, and we shall doubtless hear much on the subject. Another Correspondent, looking at the faults, apathy and neglect which lie nearest home, vents his passion as follows,—in an argument the principle of which we hold to be sound:—

Your "one R.A." who was so disgusted with the dull, spotted, and opaque surface of the "chief work by which he was represented" at the great Exposition, has nothing to complain of but his own indolence or indifference. He, and his brother Academicians, knew that English Art was to be then and there exhibited before the whole European public;—he, and they, knew that it would be seen side by side with the best works of the best artists of all other nations,—"canvases," if he so pleases, "preserved with a sort of religious care"; and if he and they took so little interest in the honour of the nation, that he and they were content to be represented by "damaged" pictures, which they had not seen for twenty years, who deserves censure but themselves? It is the British nation, not the British artist, that has a right to complain. The "one R.A." tells us that he had no opportunity of rejecting or retouching his picture before it was hung up; reply, that he, and every other R.A., had full power to represent himself,—to send "canvases" that had been "preserved with religious care,"—that did not require retouching, or that had been retouched,—and, therefore, he has no right now to complain. Let your "one R.A." and all other R.A.'s, say what they please to qualify or explain,—gratify or satisfy their personal vanity,—the fact is written, and can never be effaced, that in the great European competition of 1855, the "one R.A." and the forty R.A.'s, and British Art itself, were degraded and disgraced; and this, he it remembered, after R.A.'s have been in existence for nearly a century. So far as the R.A.'s are concerned, the question is not worth a second thought. It is the constitution of the Academy,—the close-borough system of the Academy, which affects to represent British Art,—which was professedly established a century since as a nursery-mother of British Art, which alone concerns us; and I earnestly hope that the nation will take the subject into serious consideration, and that the European disgrace of 1855 will be the starting-point for all inquiry and all legislation.

No R.A.

N° 1465, Nov. 24, '55

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The Architectural Exhibition is to be opened on the 17th of December, and no works previously exhibited are to be received. Publicity, opportunity of sale, and chance of order, are the motives held out to the exhibitors. Two rooms are to be set apart to manufactures and other objects bearing upon architecture. The Committee is still slightly in debt. We only hope that a scheme so desirable as this will not fail to receive patronage,—the lost art of Architecture much needing such crutches as this Society. Such a centralization of effort will show members of the profession how the science stands, and register its progress and its deficiencies.

A statue to the late Archdeacon Brooks, senior rector of Liverpool, is about to be placed in St. George's Hall, Liverpool.

A Correspondent, writing from Naples, complains of the closing of the Private Museum of Antiquities in that city. He says:—"All who have ever visited Naples know that there was a portion of the Museum set aside as the receptacle for all works of classic antiquity of a certain character, and that it was opened on application to the authorities. This was in the days of 'our sin,' however,—and a sight of these marvels of ancient Art is no longer to be got. Since the new spirit has entered into Naples,—since our *dansesuses* have been compelled to wear blue tights, the objects in the reserved room have been consigned to eternal darkness, under lock and key and seal. In an artistic—and in an historical—point of view this is to be regretted, for we cannot forget that there are thus shut up works of high Art and of deep historical interest. Amongst the ten Venuses, who are no longer to exercise the power of their charms on unwary youth, is the Venus Callipyge, one of the most finished productions of ancient sculpture;—as also the famous Nereid, which was brought from Asia by Lucullus, and which afterwards belonged to Pollio and Augustus. Scopas executed it, and Pliny speaks of it. The figure, which is nude in its upper portion, is seated on a Pistrice, or sea-monster. These works, however, which were the admiration of all antiquity, and which Time has spared through so many centuries, are now imprisoned within the Neapolitan Museum. There is a consistency, it must be confessed, in the conduct of this enlightened and highly moral Government."

# MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

POSITIVELY THE LAST WEEK BUT TWO.—M. JULIEN'S CONCERTS.—THE FALL OF SEBASTOPOL AND MADRE CASSIER EVERY NIGHT.—Promenade, 1s.; Dress Circle, 2s. 6d.

M. JULIEN'S GRAND BAL MASQUÉ will take place on MONDAY, December 17.

MR. ALBERT SMITH has the honour to announce that MONT BLANC will open for the Season on MONDAY EVENING, December 3. During the Season, alterations and improvements have been made in the Egyptian Hall, which it is hoped will contribute still further to the comfort and proper accommodation of the audience. The Entertainment will be divided into Three Parts. The First Part will comprise the last year's route through Holland and up the Rhine, with the exception that it will commence at Boulogne and terminate at Heidelberg. The Second Part will contain the Ascent of Mont Blanc, entering the Valley of Chamouni by the Col de Balme, and quitting it by the Tête Noire. The Third Part will bring the traveller back by Paris, allowing time to visit the Exposition, and it will be illustrated by the following Views, painted by Mr. William Beverley:—The Palais de l'Industrie, with the Panorama Building, the Annex, and the Frigate, from the Place de la Concorde; A General View of Paris—The Palais Royal—The Machinery Gallery of the Annex—The Interior of the Exhibition, from the great St. Gobain glass. The Ascent has been entirely repainted, and a View of the large gorges on the Glacier de Bosconia is also introduced. The Views of Heidelberg, and of the Village of Chamouni after the fire, are by Mr. P. Phillips. Several old travelling acquaintances, and a number of new ones, encountered abroad during the autumn, will be presented to the audience. All the regulations with respect to the Room, the Places, and the Box-office, with which the audiences have been pleased to express themselves satisfied during past Seasons, will be observed as before.

Prices of Admission: Stalls (Numbered and reserved, which can be taken in advance from the Plan at the Hall, every day, from Eleven till Four, without any extra charge). It is respectfully intimated that no Bonnets can be allowed in the Stalls or in the Balcony at the Evening Representations. Gallery Stalls (which can also be taken from a Plan, and in which Bonnets may be worn). 2s. 6d. Area of the Hall, 2s. Gallery, 1s. Children—Stalls, 2s.; Area, 1s. A Private Box, to hold Three Persons, Half-price; with an Extra Chair, 1s. A Private Balcony, for Nine Persons, 1s. 2s. 6d. Separate Seats in the Balcony, 2s. 6d. each. The doors will be opened at half-past Seven, and the Lecture commences very punctually at Eight o'clock. The Box-office is now open.—Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, November 20th, 1855.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—On Wednesday evening, in addition to 'The Mount of Olives,' 'Acis and Galatea' was performed with some novelties in the cast. Mrs. Lucy Escott was the *Galatea*, and in

no respect the worst *Galatea* whom we have heard. She has the ways of a singer; the instincts as well as some of the means of her art,—an agreeable voice, not ill delivered, and that sort of accent of which even the modern school of Italy, false as this is, has not yet been able wholly to deprive its pupils. But the language which Mrs. Escott sings is neither Italian, English, nor American. Let her straightway bend herself to reconsider her articulation, and she may make a good career in good English music. Mr. Wilbye Cooper's *Acis* was a fair match for Mrs. Escott's *Galatea*, allowing for exceptions of totally different quality. His voice, too, is pleasing, and, in its register, rather baritone than tenor; but it is not well produced. There is a certain stiffness in tone which should and must be smoothed away, if the singer is ever to take a high rank. Mr. Cooper, too, speaks inelegantly. We are ever ready to break a lance against those who maintain singing to be mere declamation; but we cannot accept the text of the Bible, and (with a long interval) the text of Milton, Congreve, Dryden, Gray—all of which Handel set—inelegantly delivered.—*The Acis*, as well as the *Galatea*, seemed to make a favourable impression on the large audience assembled in St. Martin's Hall.

HAYMARKET.—Sir John Vanbrugh's comedy, as altered by Cibber, of 'The Provoked Husband,' was revived on Monday, and presents a remarkable contrast to the productions of "the fast school,"—for the sake of which the conductors of the modern stage have been content to incur continued loss and certain ruin. Intended to teach a moral lesson, to reprove licentious living, and to fix the attention of the audience rather than to extort noisy applause (all which motives are expressly set down in "the Prologue"), the literary composition of this play is full of dramatic excellence, abounding in wit and ethical sentiment. Entire dependence is placed on the dialogue; for of action there is nothing, and the story throughout is conducted by narrative, and not by means of visible incident. We have, in fact, a series of drawing-room conversations, in which the development of character is accomplished by the display of verbal repartee, not by the urgency of situation. A part like *Lady Townly* is one of exceeding difficulty to such an actress as Miss Cushman; yet by the force of wit she contrived to triumph over many obstacles, and threw all the energy of her mind into the voluble rejoinders with which the profligate wife parried the reproaches of her noble husband. Miss Cushman was carefully supported by Mr. Howe, who, in the part of *Lord Townly*, rose to a degree of excellence that will serve to confirm the steady progress which he has lately been making in the good opinion of the public. In the pathos of the concluding scene, he showed a power of producing a state of feeling in the house not always possessed by actors of greater name. The revival was well received.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The Honorary Medals distributed in the musical department of the Paris Exposition are specified as follows in the *Gazette Musicale*.—*Grand Medals of Honour* are awarded to Herr Böhm, of Munich, for improvements in what is familiarly called "the wood band" of wind instruments,—to M. Cavallé-Coll, the well-known French builder of church organs,—to the Paris Chamber of Commerce for pianofortes,—to M. Sax for his saxophones, and other new brass instruments,—and to M. Vuillaume, of Paris, for his "viols" (to employ the old-fashioned genuine name). *Medals of Honour* are allotted to MM. Alexandre, of Paris, for their *harmoniums*,—to M. Erard for pianos and harps,—to MM. Herz and Pleyel, of Paris, for pianos,—to MM. Triebert & Co., also of Paris, for their hautboys, English horns, bassoons, &c. *Nominations to the Order of the Legion of Honour* have been bestowed on M. Blanchet of Paris, and M. Boisselot of Marseilles, for pianos,—on M. Martin of Provins, for improvements in hand organs. The one English name that figures in the list is that of Mr. George Barker, who has long, as our

readers are aware, been settled in Paris, and whose device for lightening the touch of organs is one of the most important musical inventions of modern times.

The programme of the second monster concert given in the Paris Exhibition building comprised 'L'Impériale,' a new *cantata* by M. Berlioz, and among other instrumental music the *Andante*, *Scherzo*, and *Finale* to Beethoven's Symphony in C minor. The orchestra and chorus amounted to 1,250 persons in number. The correspondent of the *Morning Post* described the effect as unsatisfactory. Not merely does the plurality of sub-conductors appear to have worked ill,—and the division of the orchestra into separate blocks or squadrons to have been attended with confusion; but the resonance as a whole, so far as we can understand, was disappointing,—the *fortes* of the entire mass of executants in no degree representing their force. There is instruction to be derived from such a fact if it be measured against the success of the music which was performed on the opening of our Sydenham Palace, [vide *Ath.* No. 1390]. That was insured in part by the excellent composition of the orchestra,—in part by the essential qualities of the music selected. Handel's 'Hallelujah' from 'The Messiah' will bear "loading in its lights" (to adopt the painter's phrase) to almost any conceivable brilliancy. Beethoven's explosions, in the *finale* to his C minor Symphony, mighty as they are, are led up to by passages of climax, and contrasted with figures of such a delicacy, that the rendering of them by multiplication implies confusion. No symphonic concert, the music of which is intricate, should be a monster concert; but it is only by repeated experiments and comparisons, and by making due allowance for difference of localities, that a law can be ascertained.

We understand that Signor Costa's 'Eli' will be performed in London early next year.—We hear that a new pianoforte *Trio* may be expected from Herr Molique,—and that a secular *Cantata*, by Mr. W. S. Bennett, on which he has been for some time engaged, approaches completion.

Miss Dolby's *Soirées* will be given, as usual, in the course of December.—The Chamber Concerts of the *Society of British Musicians* were to commence on Thursday last.—Mr. H. C. Banister's annual Chamber Concert is to be held at St. Martin's Hall on Monday next.—Mr. Wallace, the composer, has arrived in Paris, from America, with the intention of wintering in the neighbouring capital.

We may here call attention to the appearance of the first numbers of Mr. W. Chappell's 'Popular Music of the Olden Time'—a reproduction, with extension, omission, and alteration, of the author's 'Collection of National English Airs,' published some fifteen years ago, and long out of print.

The number of the *New York Herald* which yielded the Virginian comment on the taking of Sebastopol cited last week, contains other theatrical news.—A new comedy, with the mysterious title of 'Manifest Destiny,' is announced at Wallack's theatre, New York.—A few lines lower we learn that "Miss Adelaide Phillips (a young American Lady who has studied singing in Italy, and appeared there with some success), Mr. Millard, and Mr. Borroni (formerly of the Pyne & Harrison troupe), contemplate a union for the purpose of giving English opera in Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore."

The Lessee of Drury Lane Theatre has advertised as an additional attraction to Mr. C. Mathews and 'Nittoris' a "happy family" of ferocious wild beasts in a cage, trained and tamed by a French woman, who is announced as about to appear in the midst of her slaves. For such monstrous work as this (if warranted by the Chamberlain's Office) there should be only one sort of public, and that is, no public at all.

# MISCELLANEA

The Pretended Descendant of Blake.—The following extract from a letter to a friend has been placed in our hands for publication:—"My dear —,—The *Athenæum* has settled the question of the pretended descendant from the great Admiral





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